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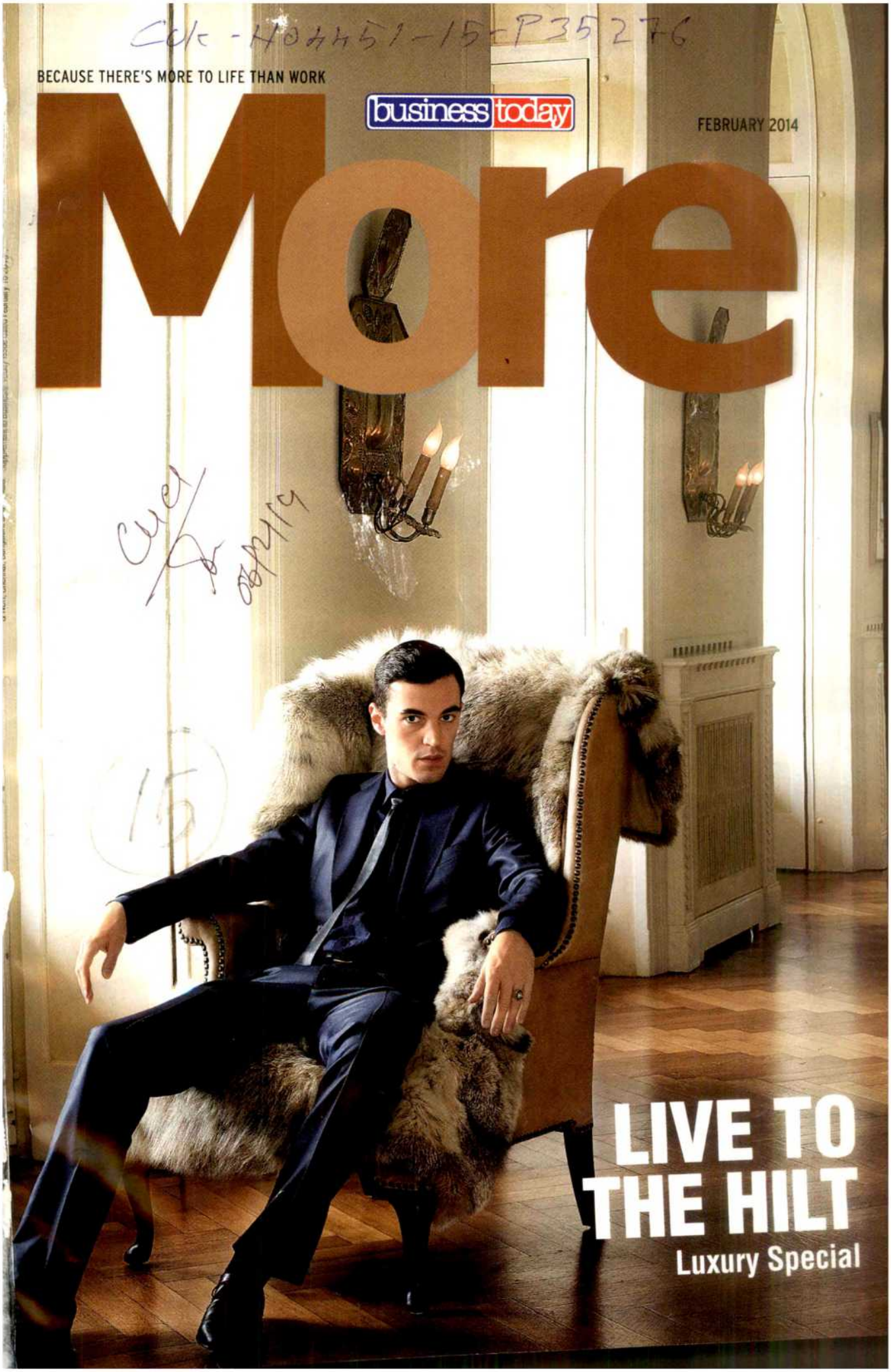
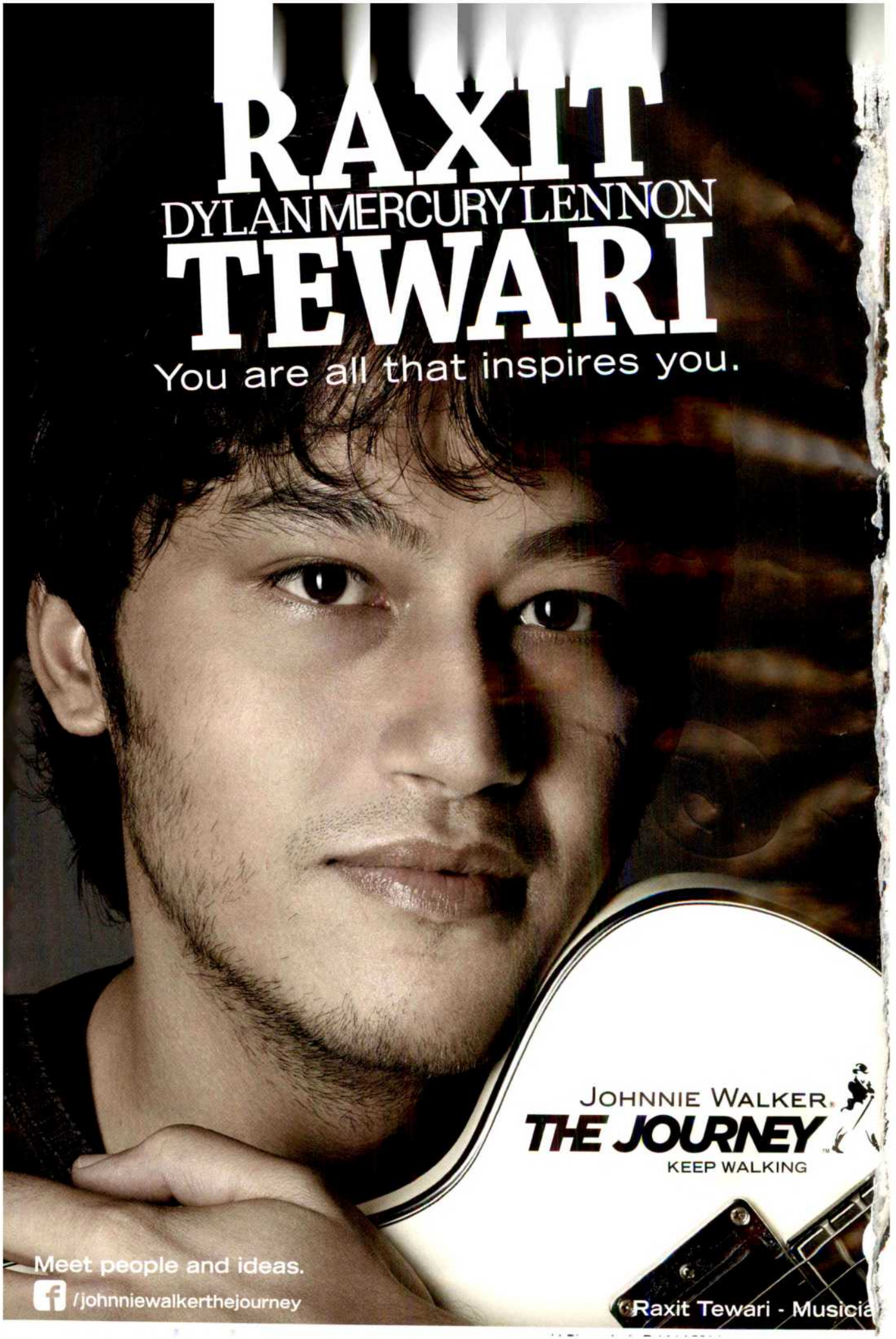


LIVE TO THE HILT

Luxury Special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22 **FASHION FUNDAMENTALS**
You are what you wear. The coolest things to stock your wardrobe with

INDIA TODAY GROUP

Volume 8 Number 1; February 2014

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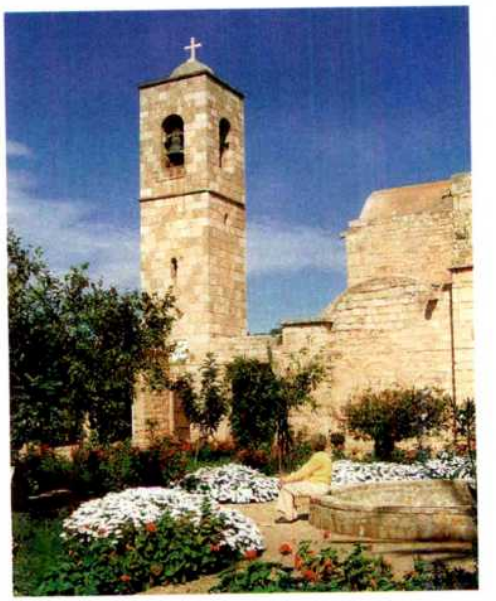

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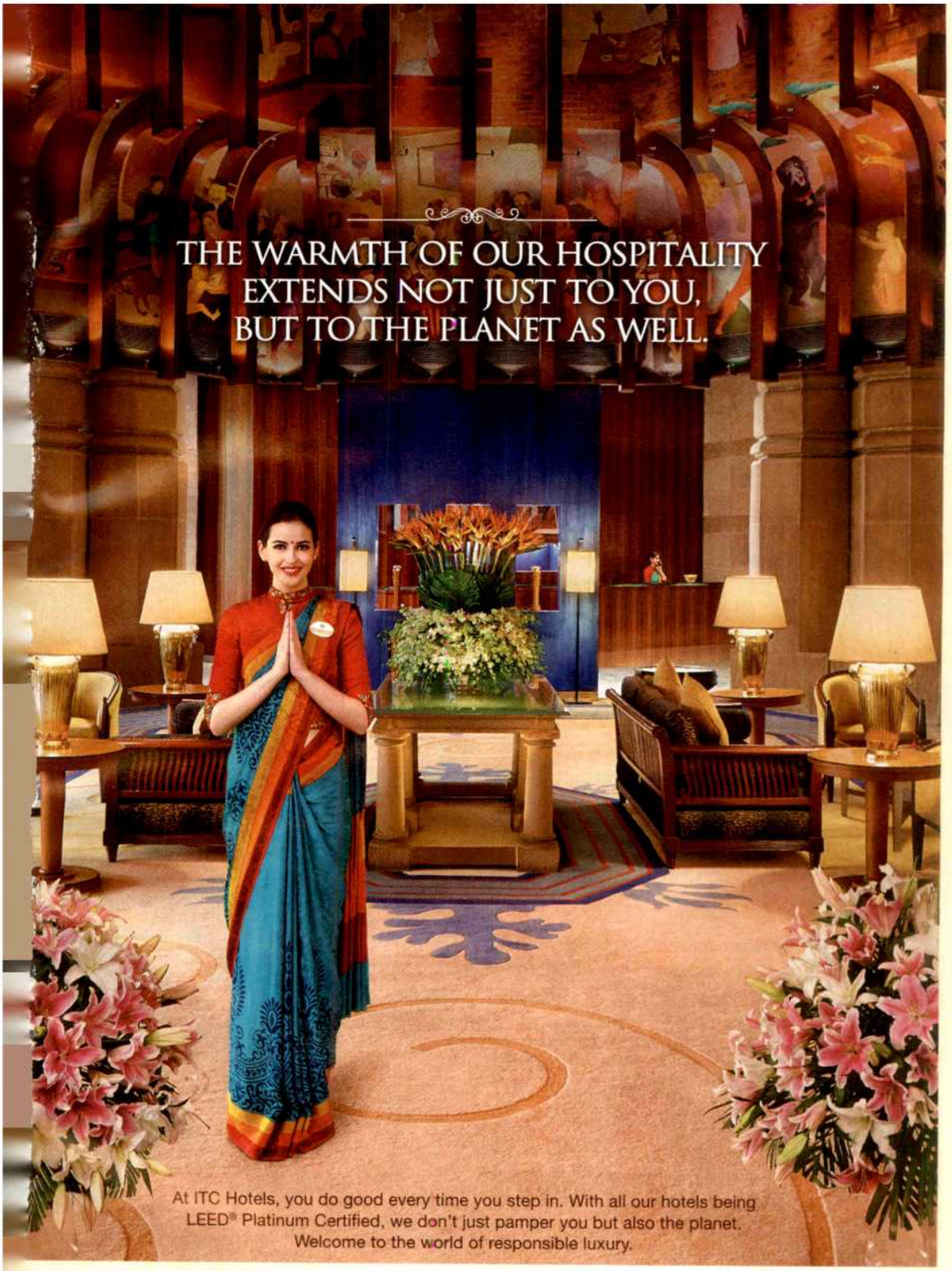

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Time for Luxury

Breitling Vice President Jean-Paul Girardin on how to pick a luxury watch that best fits your personality.

PRIORITISE FUNCTIONALITY

A luxury watch is, in essence, a miniature machine that does more than just fulfill its basic function of telling the time. The extra element that exceeds the functionality of the watch could be in terms of design or aesthetics, lending it an edge of exclusivity. Also, keep in mind what you are going to use it for. For instance, if you are a globetrotter, a watch showing various time zones will help; a snokeling enthusiast should make sure it is waterproof; an accurate chronograph is essential for a racer.

STYLE STATEMENT

As a luxury watch conveys strong signs about the wearer, pick a piece that matches your personality. Watches are among the last remaining pieces of jewellery for men, and as it's an accessory you don't change frequently, pick out a piece that is classic and timeless in terms of appeal.

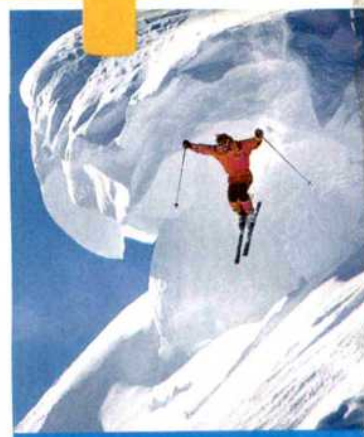
INVESTMENT WATCH

While emotion is the primary reason for buying a luxury watch, you can also look at the purchase as an investment — especially if you settle for a collector's item or limited edition piece. Being the culmination of dedicated craftsmanship, precision and considerable value, the watch will continue to be coveted, and if the event arises, you can decide whether you want to part with it or not.

GO WITH YOUR GUT FEELING

You may not be able to pinpoint what it is about a luxury watch that makes you want it, but your emotions are often a response to its quality. Once you prioritise the functionality angle of the watch, you can never go wrong on quality.

4 apps for skiing



Snow Forecast

Snow Forecast, which has a database of 2,500 ski resorts across the world, gives constant snow alerts and detailed snow forecasts – updated every six hours. Geolocation guides you to the closest ski resorts based on your current location.

iTrailMaps

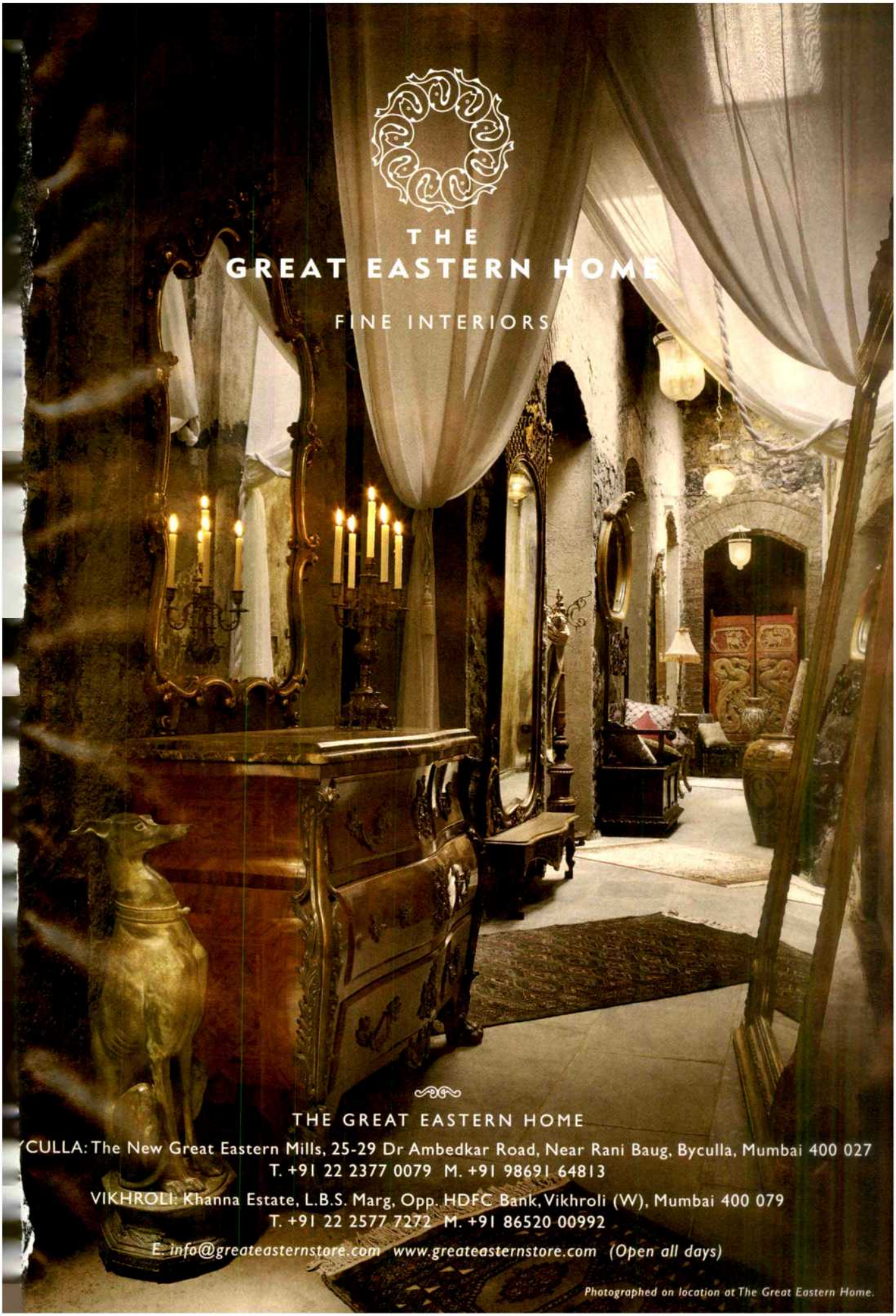
If your resort doesn't have its own mapping app, try this one. It downloads maps with detailed directions to nearby skiing trails. Some ski trails are also available in 3D maps.

Ski Tracks

This GPS tracker can capture and document your antics on the snowy slopes. A device that geotags images you take on the go, it is totally worth it if you are an experienced skier.

Ski School

This app, complete with video tutorials, helps brush up your piste technique. Also, it lets you compare your skills with that of an experienced skiing instructor on a split screen.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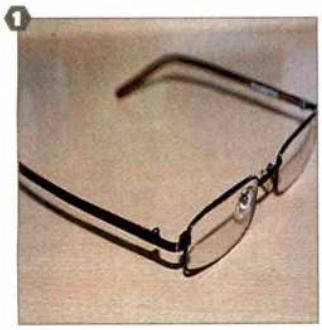
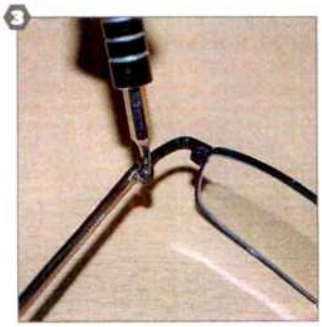
Don't let those glasses slip

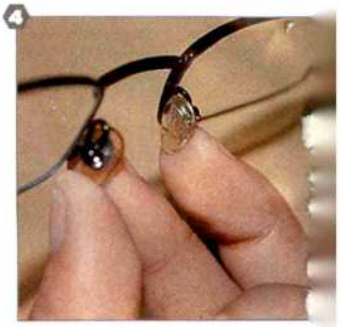


Lay your eye glasses on a table and check if the temple arms are at the same level. If not, gently bend the temple arms with a pair of pliers until they sit straight on your nose.

Once the temple arms are settled at the same level, adjust the earpieces. Twist the earpieces towards the head if they're too loose, and outwards if too tight.



Tighten the screws on each side of the temple with a small screwdriver, taking care you don't overtighten the screws. This will keep the glasses from slipping off.



Fix the nose pads for comfort. If the glasses sit high on your face, move the nose pads apart. If the glasses sit low on the bridge of your nose, pinch them closer.

Careful with that Caviar!

WHEN SERVING THE FOOD OF the gods, you can't afford to go wrong. Apart from the intricacies of plating expensive caviar, the way you store it can make all the difference between serving delicate bubbles of ecstasy or, well, just a mound of fish eggs.

STORING

An unopened can of caviar will last up to four weeks but an opened can needs to be consumed within three days.

Most household refrigerators don't have the ideal temperature for storing caviar – 28-30 degrees Fahrenheit. Store it in the bottom drawer of your refrigerator, which is usually the coldest part of your fridge, but never freeze it. If you have to store a half-eaten container of caviar, wrap the jar in plastic wrap and put it in a bowl of ice to retain its freshness. To preserve the delicacy of its flavour, caviar should never be cooked.

SERVING

Pointers Ten minutes before serving take the caviar out of the fridge and leave it with the lid on. Being the ultimate delicacy, caviar is served in small portions. When accompanied by hors d'oeuvre, serve a maximum of 50 gm per person. The best caviar looks like shiny, fine-grained globules.

Cutlery Avoid metal spoons and utensils when serving caviar, use glass, bone, tortoiseshell, wood, plastic or, if you want perfection, mother-of-pearl.

Accompaniments Offer the delicacy with bite-sized garnishes that don't overwhelm the flavour of the caviar. Crustless plain toast, blinis (small buckwheat pancakes) or sour cream go particularly well with caviar. Creme fraiche, a cultured whole cream, is another option. Its richness complements the sumptuous texture of caviar and the wholesomeness of fresh toast points.

Though connoisseurs prefer their caviar with a straight shot of ice cold vodka, it also beautifully complements the fruitiness of champagne.

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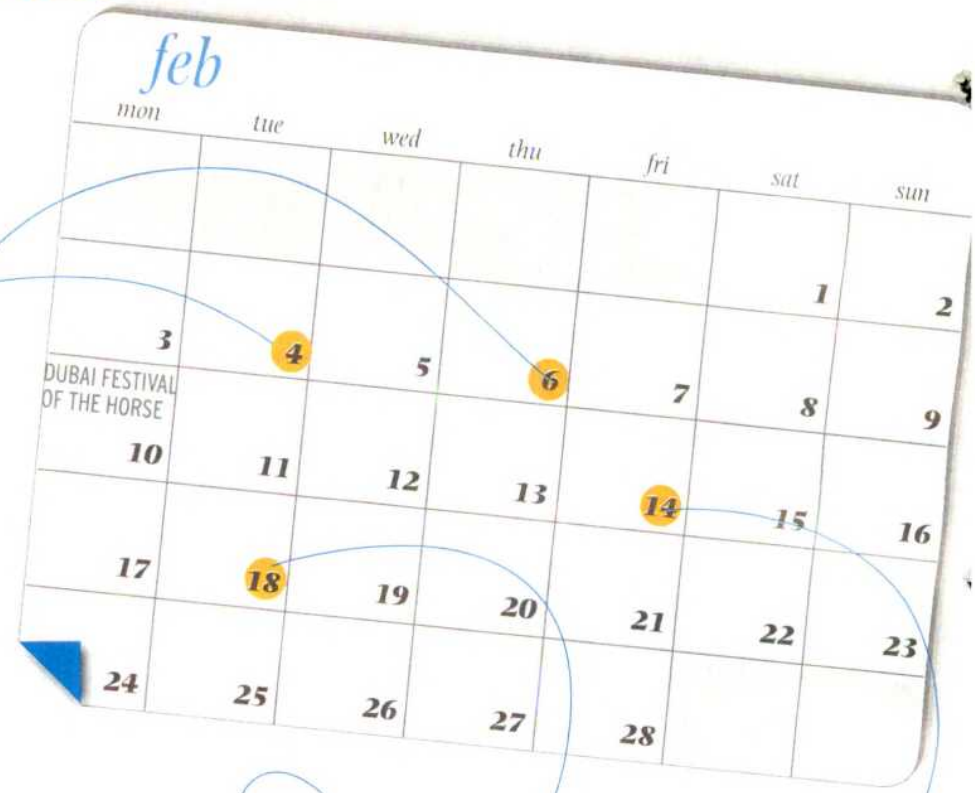
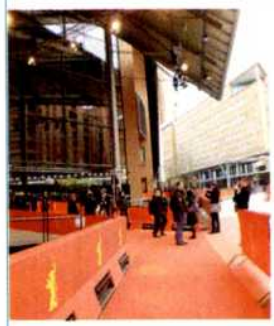


4-9 Feb

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL FINE ART FAIR, FLORIDA

Now in its 18th year, the American International Fine Art Fair held at Palm Beach, Florida, has long been regarded as the mecca for art lovers and collectors worldwide. It is the perfect melting point for artists to exhibit their work to an audience that is both discerning and appreciative. To ensure quality and

originality, all the artwork showcased in the fair is carefully vetted by the governing body to ensure that buyers get pieces worth their time and money. For more, visit aifaf.com.



6-16 Feb

BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, GERMANY

One of the most prestigious film festivals across the globe, the Berlinale is nothing short of a feast for any world cinema lover. Screening and premiering films from various countries, the festival hosts a bevy of stars, filmmakers and critics – besides avid watchers – every year. For more information, visit berlinale.de.

18-23 Feb

MILAN FASHION WEEK, ITALY

The biggest event for the fashion industry, the Milan Fashion Week in Italy will see every top fashion brand sashay their work on the ramp, making statements, starting trends and impressing viewers and buyers alike. The fashion week is also a great meeting point for fashion industry players. For more, visit milanfashionweeklive.com.

14-23 Feb

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW, TORONTO

Marking its 40th anniversary this year, the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto promises over 6,00,000 sq ft of automotive displays and exhibits. You can also check out the two new sections launched this year – Auto Exotica and Eco-Drive Showcase. For details, visit autoshow.ca.

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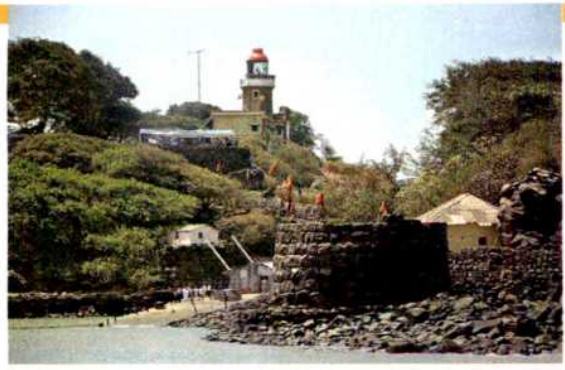
Remember the movies you watched and loved as a child? A new world tour lets you live them, scene by scene

You know when, but do you know **where** Harry met Sally? ▲

RECALL THE DAYS OF OLD, WHEN movies were the ideal getaway to places far away — the vast desert in *Lawrence of Arabia* to the picturesque waterhole in *The Beach*? Well, now's your chance to revisit them, and this time it's for real. As part of a whole new holiday package for movie buffs, VeryFirstTo (in a tie-up with travel firm Unmissable) offers you the opportunity to see some of cinema's most iconic destinations first-hand, whether it is the Wudang Monastery as depicted in *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* or the streets of Montmarte, Paris, in *Amelie*. The Blockbuster Trip, as it is called, takes couples on a three-month global trip that incorporates visits to 20 exceptional destinations made famous by popular films, and guided tours that enable them to relive scenes from classics like *Chocolat* and *When Harry Met Sally*. However, the cost — at £198,000 per couple — is significantly more than a movie ticket, so you better get those doubloons hopping!

FOOD ON CALL, IN-FLIGHT

Tired of eating the same ol' hammy sandwiches they serve aboard international flights? Well, you don't have to, especially if you are flying Malaysia Airlines. Chef-on-Call, an exclusive service provided by the airlines to its first and business class passengers, offers you the opportunity to choose from an array of dishes – ranging from Malaysian favourites to food for the health conscious as well as all-time continental fare. Passengers can select their meal choices online before catching their flight by visiting www.malaysiaairlines.com/chefoncall or by simply calling the Malaysia Airlines call centre at 1300-88-3000. But there's a catch; the service is currently being offered only on flights to select destinations.

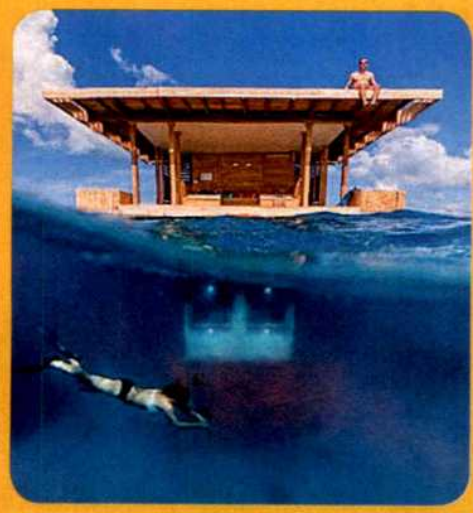


THE LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

If you have a thing for lighthouses, here's good news. The Indian government has announced a project to promote the ship-guiding structures as tourist spots, and the first in line would be the Kanhoji Angre lighthouse on an island with the same name in Mumbai. The facilities at the tourist attraction will include a jetty, a passenger terminal, a viewing gallery, tent-style lodging facilities and high-profile restaurants. The lighthouse and the island are named after Kanhoji Angre, leader of the Maratha navy during the 18th century. While the fort was built by the Portuguese in the 1700s, the lighthouse came about in 1866.

A WINDOW TO WATERWORLD

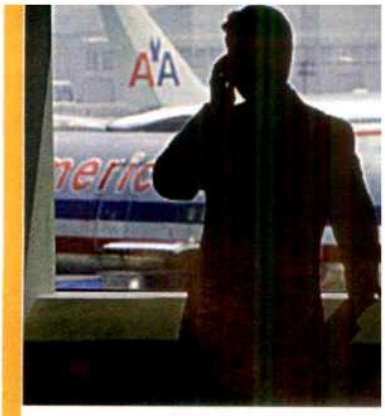
'Sleeping with the fishes' may sound quite ominous, but rest assured, there is no Sicilian twist to this one. The Manta Floating Resort in the Indian Ocean, near Pemba Island, presents travellers with a whole new way to get up close and personal with marine life. From the middle floor of this Swedish-designed facility, you can jump into the blue waters. The heavily-windowed bedroom makes it easy to spot exotic fish, and the ocean is illuminated by strategically placed spotlights so that viewing can continue late into the night.



JETWAY INTO THE FUTURE

Tired of trawling through customs and standing in long queues during brief stopovers? The future may hold an answer for this long-standing grouse of the jetsetting individual. Architect Margo Krasojevic has created a visually striking yet delightfully mobile miniature 'Jetway' hotel that can be placed directly beside a just-landed private jet. Once in position, the 'pop-up hotel' — complete with a lounge area and an integrated entertainment system — can provide passengers with a base for up to 24 hours. The telescopic shell of the hotel, which is still in its design stages, can also be extended or contracted — depending on the passengers' requirements. Jetway's interiors are lined with a combination of laminated glass, photovoltaic cells and fully controllable LED lighting, and the exteriors contain Perspex-encased tritium sections that glow.

An artist's rendition of the Jetway hotel, which is still on the drawing board ▲



TECH AND THE FREQUENT FLIER

Airline passengers swear by technology, with over 90 per cent claiming that it helps them while travelling, a passenger IT trends survey by the Societe Internationale de Telecommunications Aeronautiques has found. The study – carried out on a sample of 299 million passengers passing through six biggest airports in the world – also found that at 76 per cent, the proportion of passengers carrying smartphones outstrips the global average of 40 per cent in the general population. It also found that 69 per cent of the respondents booked their tickets through websites and 20 per cent used a kiosk for check-in on the day of their journey. However, actual rates of usage of these services remain below 5 per cent.

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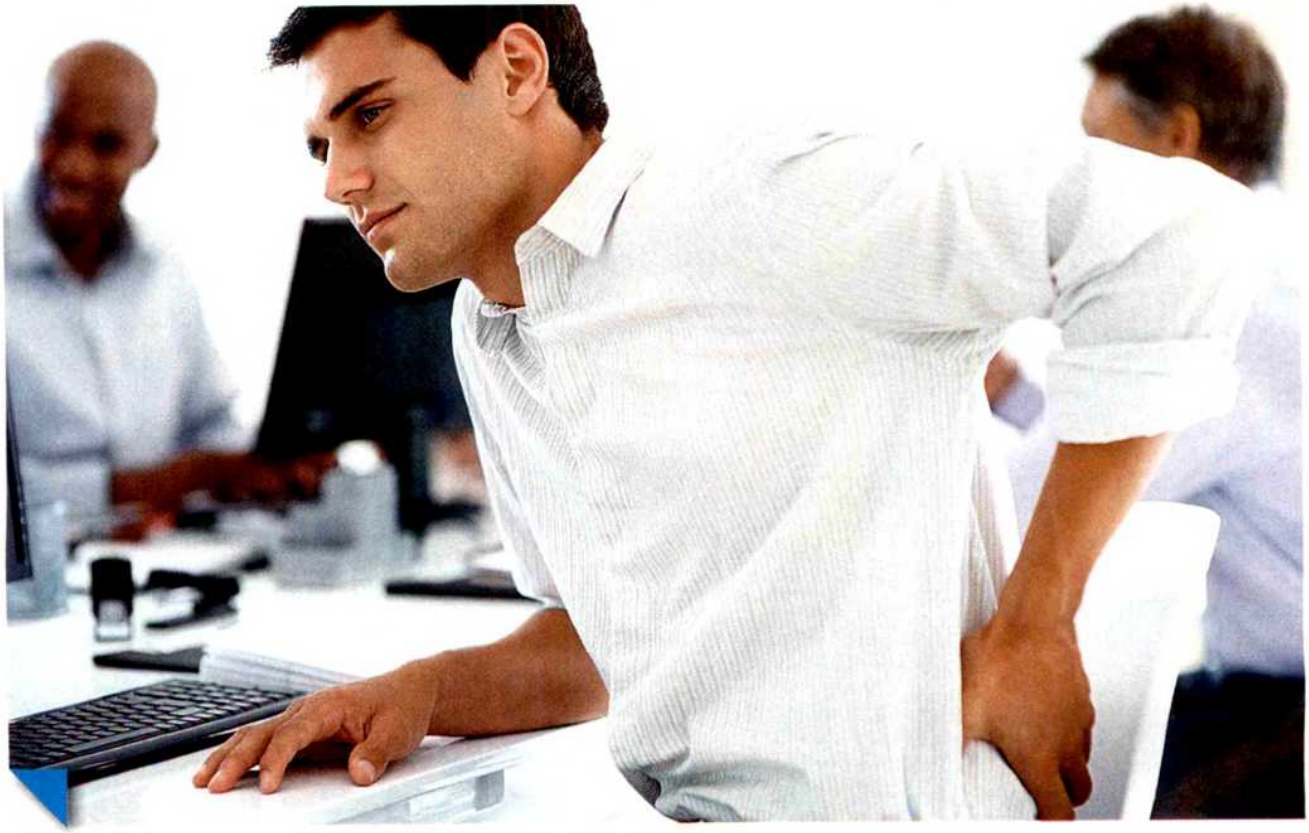
Back to Back

With our urban lifestyle making us sedentary with each passing day, we are increasingly falling prey to back ailments. Some tips to prevent them at home, work and en route.



The positioning of your computer at the workplace could be vital for preventing back ailments ▲

While sleeping

Thought it's difficult to injure your back while sleeping? Think again. If you have a bed that does not offer your back enough support, you may end up waking up with a stiff back. So, invest some money in an orthopedically designed spring mattress; your body will thank you for it.

Waking up

You may not know this, but there is a very good chance of hurting your back while jumping out of bed early in the morning. You can reduce the risk of back strain or injury by stretching for a while before you climb out of bed. Stretching will help warm and lubricate your back — making it limber.

Driving to work

Many of us spend a significant part of our waking hours behind the wheel. However, little thought is given to how comfortable we are in our cars, or what damage our car seats is doing to our backs. For starters, bring the seat close enough to the steering wheel. Also, if you travel long distances, make slight but frequent adjustments to the seat's position. Locking your spine in one position for the length of an entire ride can cause a lot of problems.

At the office desk

Considering that you probably spend more time at work than home, how good is your sitting posture at your desk? Okay, you could start by insisting on an ergonomically designed chair at work. Also, to prevent your body from adopting awkward positions, make sure that the monitor and keyboard are set directly in front of your chest.

Be active, through it all

Remember, your back hates it when you hardly move your body. Need some papers photocopied? Don't call the peon, do it yourself. Been sitting for an hour? Get up and take a walk.

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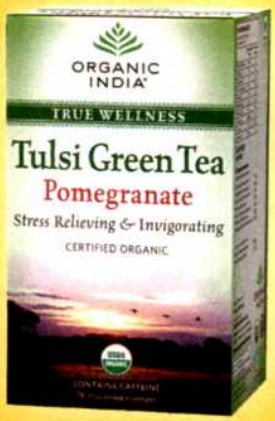

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Have a Good Run

For the busy corporate, running is a good way to shed extra flab and maintain fitness. Some pointers

Do's

Walk first

It's better to walk a little, prior to hitting the track in your running shoes. Taking it slow in the beginning will help you lower exertion levels, and prepare your legs for the rigorous experience to follow. Just like warming up.

Breathe right

The best way to maintain a good breathing cadence is to breathe in or out every time your dominant foot touches the ground. For example, if you are right-handed, your breathing cadence must start with your right foot.

Drink up

Have lots of water before a run. Cold water leaves the runner's stomach quicker than any other type of fluid. In addition, it produces a significant cooling effect – physiological as well as psychological.

Don'ts

Have painkillers

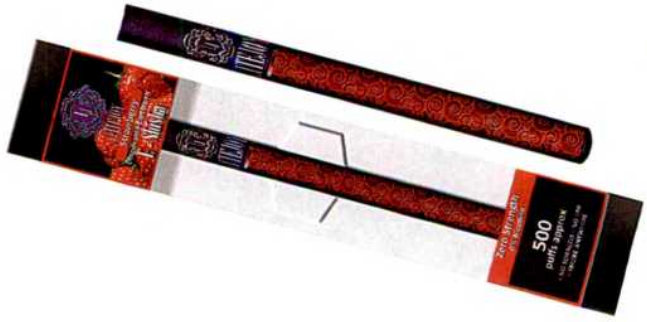
Never take painkillers to mask the pain from a running injury, just so you can continue to run. Instead, to maintain your fitness level, try other things like working on your form or taking a spinning class.

Use same shoe

Keep rotating your running shoes. This will keep any particular shoe from causing irritation or sores in a particular area. In time, you will have to buy more shoes anyway, so you might as well do it now. Capisce?

Headphones? Umm...

YOLO. So, if you are running down a busy street, avoid wearing headphones that may mask the sound of approaching vehicles. Also, keep your head up, which will help align the rest of your body and prevent injuries.



E-Shisha from Litejoy

LOSING YOUR BATTLE AGAINST SMOKING? DON'T despair, here's something that will help you much more than a nicotine patch. The E-Shisha from Litejoy simulates the process of smoking a conventional cigarette, but with little nicotine intake and none of the harmful effects. This way, you never run out of puffs either; you just recharge your E-Shisha, which comes in eight flavours — apple, blueberry, mint, pomegranate, watermelon, strawberry, cherry and grape!

Price: On demand

From Men'sHealth

RELAX, AND FAST!

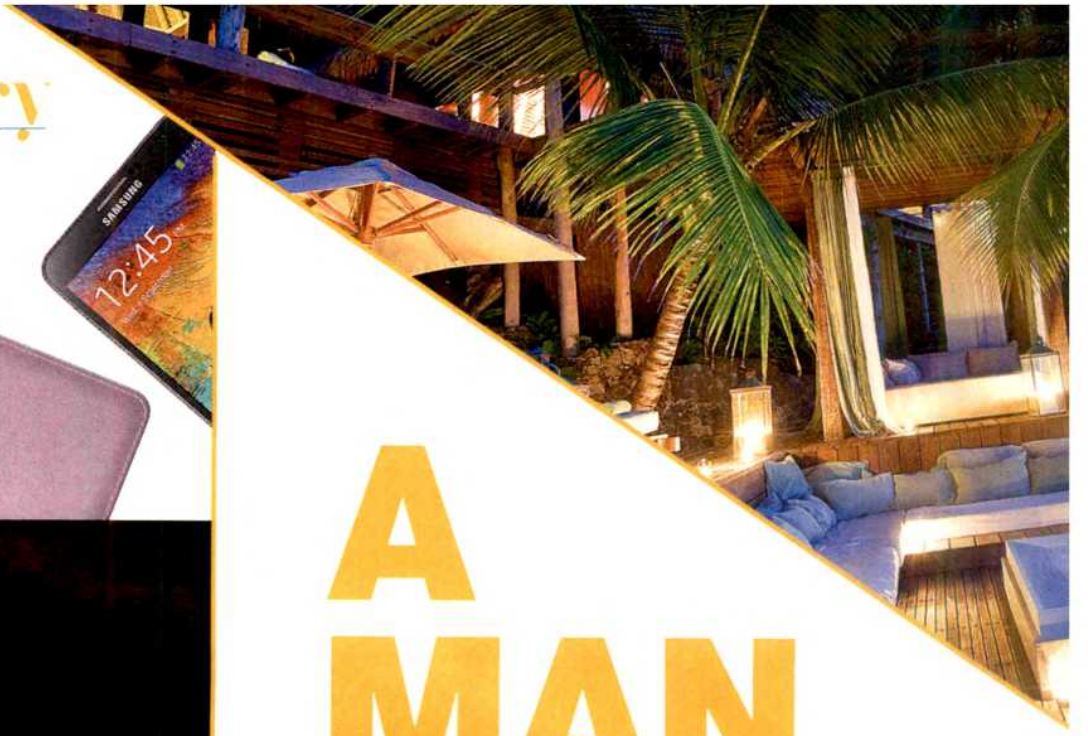
Square-eyed from exhaustion? The revolutionary Four Corner Breathing Exercise is your free pass to the land of nod. By combining the use of outer and inner focal points, this method can calm you in no time.

1 Find an object with four corners: a picture frame or even this page (anything but TV). Focus on the upper-left-hand corner and inhale to a count of four

2 Turn your gaze to the upper-right-hand corner of the frame and hold your breath for a count of four

3 Move your focus to the lower-right-hand corner of your chosen object. Exhale to the count of four.

4 Finally, turn your concentration to the lower-right-hand corner of the object. Tell yourself to relax, then smile. Repeat the exercise.



A MAN APART

The fashionista of today sets the trend for tomorrow, and the road to the future is laid by those who look beyond bare necessities. A sneak peek into the brightest luxury trends this season.

TEXT BY SAURAV BHANOT, ANINDITA SATPATHI & JIMMY J

IS LUXURY A STATE OF MIND OR A STATE OF BEING?
Philosophers have engaged in debate over this question for centuries, without reaching a consensus. The answer is surprisingly simple – it's a little of both. Just drenching yourself in luxury isn't enough; you have to revel in its intoxicating effect, cultivate it to make a statement that sets you apart from the crowd.

After all, what is luxury if you don't let it pamper your discerning taste for the finer things in life? True indulgence lies in setting your qualms aside and allowing it to shape your personality – polishing the roughest of edges, drawing equal measures of appreciation and envy from the beholder, and giving your society a yardstick to live up to.

In this issue, we present the latest in luxury trends – whether it's a dinner jacket that will make you the life of any party, an all-accommodating cherry red settee occupying the pride of place in your living room, or a rocketship customised for the roads. Go forth and indulge.

Breguet
Classique Hora Mundi Haute Joaillerie

Steal a glance at Breguet's Classique Hora Mundi Haute Joaillerie, and you realise there are a thousand little things that go into the making of a masterpiece. Take, for instance, its round case in 950 platinum with finely fluted caseband, hand-engraved on a rose engine and fitted with a sapphire crystal. Or the dial of the watch, which magnificiently depicts the Asian continent in 18-carat gold — set with 154 round-cut diamonds. In a nutshell, the Hora Mundi is an invitation to journey across water and land. Are you game?

WATCH THIS!

The wheels of time never stop grinding in the watchmaking industry. A look at the most luxurious timepieces to come up in recent years

Breguet
Classique 3755 Grande Complication Skeleton

On the Classique 3755, you don't read the time – you admire it. The ticking embodiment of skeletal beauty, this device gives refinement a face through the spectacular interlacing of polished rhodium and engraved parts. Equipped with a tourbillon and a perpetual calendar, the watch has an off-centred chapter-ring accompanied by an arc that shows the date with a jumping retrograde mechanism. The case is crafted in platinum and the dial, for its part, has been openworked in silvered 18-carat gold — individually numbered and signed a distinctive Breguet. The only thing is, can you handle the attention?

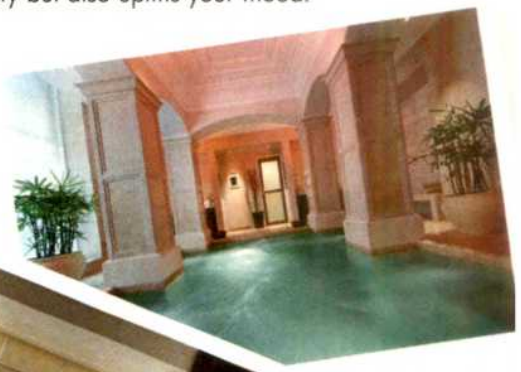
ADVERTORIAL

The next level of luxury

Escape to a luxury spa oasis overlooking the Bambolim Bay on the shores of North Goa called Shamana Spa, at Grand Hyatt Goa.

The newest additions to the international award winning Shamana Spa's menu go above and beyond standard spa therapies, taking it to the next level. The Hot Stone Candle massage and Cupid's Indulgence will be available at the spa this month.

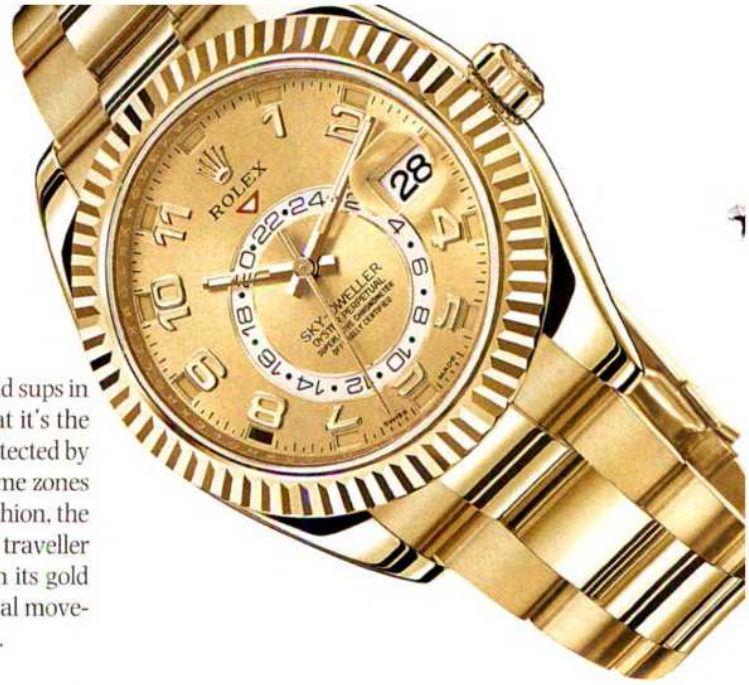
The Hot Stone Candle massage is a unique treatment and has been introduced for the first time at Shamana Spa. Sea Soul Massage Candles along with hot stones offers deep penetrating heat which helps to relieve muscle tension. The heat helps muscles release more quickly and deeply than in traditional massage. The long continuing warmth of the smooth stones in combination with the warm melted candle oil infused with Moroccan Argan Oil and Dead Sea Minerals promotes relaxation while energizing and revitalizing the central nervous system, opening up the meridians or energy pathways. The penetrating heat loosens muscles and accelerates overall circulation and metabolism, de-stressing the body in the best possible way. It not only enhances your beauty but also uplifts your mood.



What could be more perfect than indulging in a couples' massage for Valentine's Day?

At The Shamana Spa, Grand Hyatt Goa, enjoy Cupid's Indulgence, a special Valentine day package in a romantic ambiance, set with aromatic candles and soothing music. It begins with a relaxing foot ritual and is followed by strawberry body polish, aromatherapy massage and face care treatment. Hands will be free to sip a refreshing mocktail or a glass of wine while being pampered.

For more details contact +91 832 301 1603 or visit goa.grand.hyatt.com



Rolex
Oyster Perpetual Sky-Dweller

What do you get for the man who breakfasts in London and sups in Paris? Anybody familiar with timepieces would know that it's the Oyster Perpetual Sky-Dweller – a technological marvel protected by 14 patents – you should be looking for. Displaying two time zones simultaneously in an unprecedented and highly original fashion, the device provides all the time-related information a global traveller may need with a single glance at its dial. What's more, in its gold case ticks a powerful Calibre 9001 self-winding mechanical movement entirely developed by Rolex. A winner for your wrist.

Jaquet Droz
Perpetual Calendar Eclipse

If there's a Wordsworth among timepieces, this would be it. The Perpetual Calendar Eclipse expertly pairs the moon phase complication with the perpetual calendar – a finely orchestrated union that raises these two features to a new level of elegance. Two straight hands contrast sharply with the curves of two wavy ones, tipped with a crescent moon, on a black or ivory-coloured Grand Feu enamel dial. At 6 'o clock, an onyx index moves across the face of a golden moon – revealing and concealing it, until it approaches a total eclipse. Poetry in motion, indeed.

Jaeger-LeCoultre
AMVOX5 World Chronograph Cermet

A timepiece that marks the 180th anniversary of Jaeger-LeCoultre and centenary of Aston-Martin, the AMVOX5 World Chronograph houses the emblematic chronograph function while displaying 24 time zones on its dial. With a case made of reinforced cermet, developed for use in racecar engines, the dial is adorned by a central chronograph hand and two subdial counters on either side of its axis. Powered by the Jaeger-LeCoultre Calibre 752, this one's for those who live in the fast lane!

Panerai
Luminor Submersible 1950

While the Panerai Luminor PAM00364 Submersible 1950 3 Days Automatic Titano may seem as rugged as a horse, you can't help but admire the unique touch of Italian elegance it brings to your wrist. Complete with a tough 47-mm titanium case, steadfast rubber strap and crown protector, it's just the timepiece you would like by your side during a deep dive into the ocean. Water-resistant to 2,500 metres and harbouring a three-day power reserve, it is the perfect companion for the stylish deep-sea adventurer.

TAG Heuer
Carrera MikroPendulum

Magnetic would be one way to describe the TAG Heuer Carrera MikroPendulum, and the watch's classy appearance isn't the sole reason for it. Arguably the biggest coup in recent watchmaking history, the timepiece is the first ever high-frequency chronograph in the world to be regulated by magnets. The MikroPendulum's 45-mm case of sandblasted, polished titanium accommodates an anthracite grey dial, which is lent a dash of style by the world's first-ever magnetic oscillator at 9 o'clock. Running on a classic COSC-certified automatic movement powered by an oscillating weight, this watch is yet another indication of Carrera's mastery over technology and design.

Omega
Speedmaster '57

The Omega Speedmaster '57 Co-Axial Chronograph follows in the footsteps of a world-renowned predecessor, but emerges a legend in its own right. Housed in a 41.5-mm case that blends 18-carat gold with stainless steel, the watch is powered by the Omega Co-Axial Calibre 9300 – combining vintage looks with revolutionary movement. Water resistant to 100 metres, this one will stick by your wrist through thick and thin.

SPIRITED AWAY

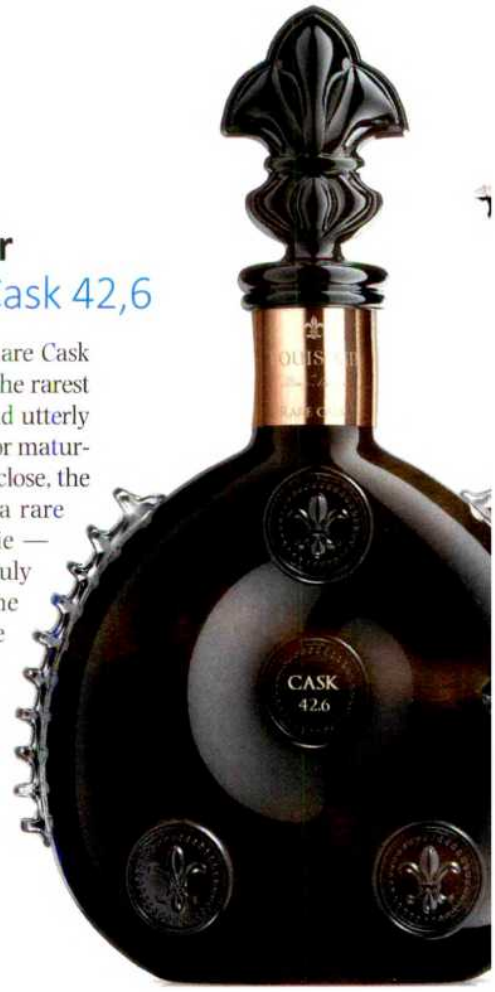
Whoever said alcohol is a poison that kills slowly never really popped open a bottle of Dom Perignon or let the notes of a Glenlivet 70 Year Old gently soothe his senses. Four high-spirited entities that promise to take you on a blessed high.

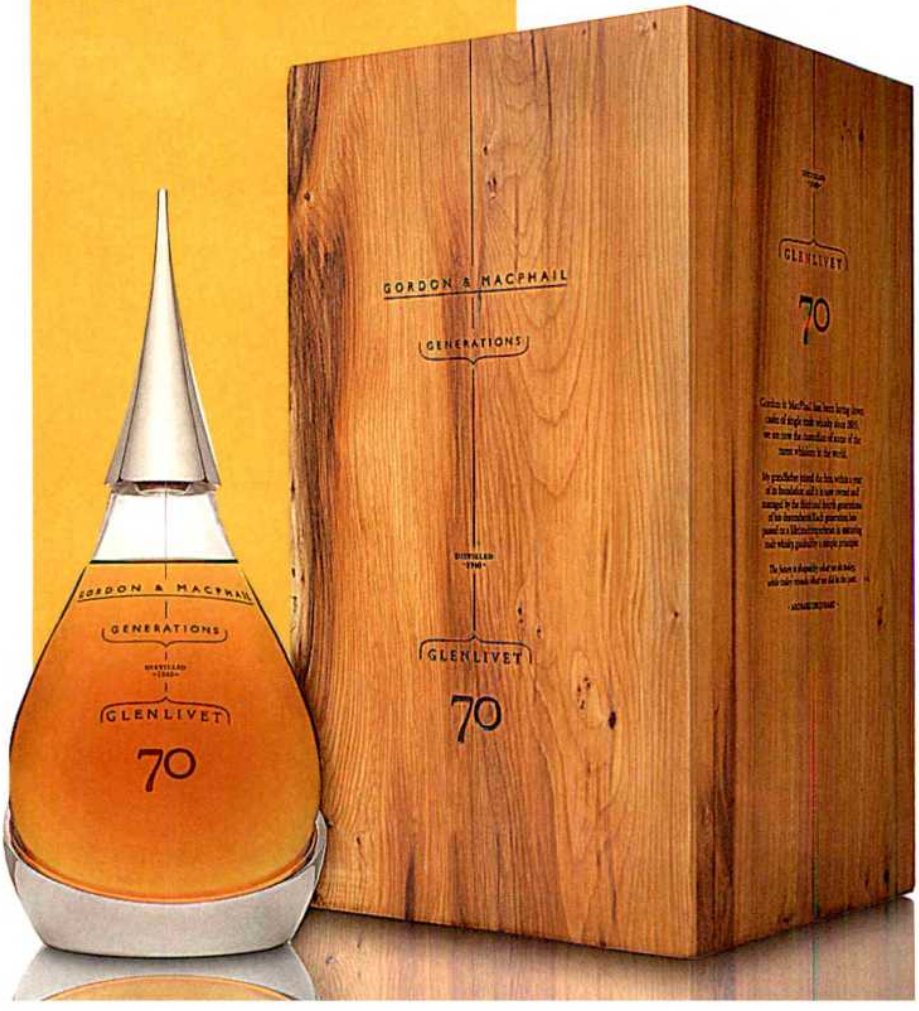
Casked Wonder

Louis XIII Rare Cask 42,6

Remy Martin's Louis XIII Rare Cask 42,6 is the embodiment of the rarest cognac — precious, rich and utterly magical. As the 100 years for maturing the Louis XIII drew to a close, the casks revealed a jewel — a rare blend of 1,200 eaux-de-vie — that had transformed into truly exceptional cognac. Just the second cask to join the rare cask collection, it has a remarkable aromatic richness and complexity that reveals itself in layers through multiple tastings. It has notes of plum, dates, gingerbread, prune stone and tobacco.

Price: ₹15.19 lakh





Drops of Wisdom

Glenlivet 70 Year Old

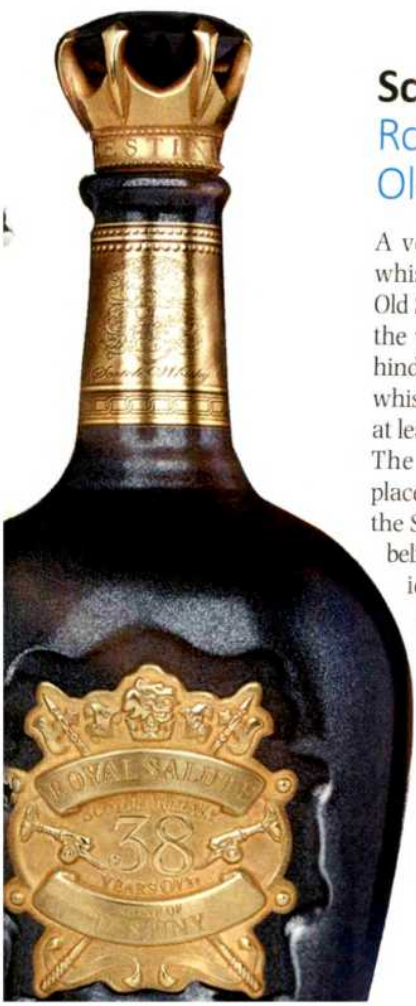
If there's any spirit that should command your respect, it's the Glenlivet 70 Year Old. Filled into a Sherry cask as the Battle of Britain waged on, the whisky spent decades fermenting — paying the angels their share until there was just enough left to fill 100 full-sized decanter bottles. Nose the whisky, and you detect a hint of blood oranges, tangarine and Jaffa cake jelly. Sip it, and you get a slight hint of ash, peat and orange jelly — coupled with zestiness and a trace of Ruby Port. The liquor is complemented by a beautiful tear-shaped crystal decanter with an elegant British Hallmarked silver stopper, framed in a handmade box from Scotland. Bow before you drink.

Price: ₹15.27 lakh

Pop the Bubbly!
Dom Perignon Vintage 2004

The Vintage 2004 from Dom Perignon pays tribute to the traditional bouquet of wine, and rounds off with a marvellously detailed touch on the palate. This champagne is intriguing — its subtlety glides into intensity as you sip, and is a sight to behold with its symphony of ecstatic bubbles swirling in the background of pale gold. Its citrusy core is smooth on the palate — beautifully embellished by a mineral tang, coffee grind and the slightest hint of sugar. On the nose you can discern almond and cocoa.

Price: On request



Scotland's Pride
Royal Salute 38 Year Old Stone of Destiny

A veritable prince in the realm of whiskies, the Royal Salute 38 Year Old Stone of Destiny is emblematic of the virtues of nobility. The story behind this royally golden blend of rare whiskies, all of which have been aged at least 21 years, is a fascinating one. The stone of destiny, which was placed under the throne as a part of the Scottish coronation ceremony, is believed to be the repository of mythical power. You couldn't agree more if you were to take a sip of fruity, floral and smoky fragrances melded in perfect harmony. The rich libation with notes of malt and allspice is contained in a gorgeous handcrafted porcelain flagon topped with a gold-plated stopper!

Price: On request

SMOKE TRAIL

HIS MAJESTY'S RESERVE

His Majesty's Reserve is unanimously considered the 'Rolls Royce' of cigars. Its filler of fragrant Dominican-grown Cuban Piloto is infused with Louis XIII cognac before being wrapped in a rare-aged Dominican wrapper, yielding a velvety smoke.

Price: ₹45,860

COHIBA BEHIKE

This cigar is so exclusive that it can send even the most seasoned aficionado into a tizzy. Its exemplification of classicism, disarmingly artful pigtail and redundancy of the need to age makes this cigar an incredibly delightful and rich smoke.

Price: ₹28,740

Price: ₹4,830

OPUS X 'A'

Behold the mammoth Opus X A – a delectably subtle smoke that improves with a few years in the humidor – if you can wait that long. With a formidable length of 9.2 inches and a ring size of 43 inches, it is packed with full-flavoured Rosado filler leaves. Its flavour ripens as the length dwindles.

LOUIXS

This luxury cigar is not something you just whip out and start smoking – you preserve it for special occasions and let it age in the humidor. With a manufacturing process involving fifth generation tobacconists, this cigar is nothing short of a dream.

Price: ₹3,057

P 35276

Tom Ford
Print Pants

Prints, like monochrome, have caught on really well in India and surprisingly, men have taken to them too. Printed pants are a fabulous option for a brunch or a day gathering, and when teamed up with a bright jacket that corresponds with the print, they can make for a really striking look. These Tom Ford pants, with their floral print and olive green tone, are a great option even for those making a start with prints. Team this with a solid coloured jacket and shirt or — if you want — go experimental with a gorgeous print-on-print look.

Price: On request

FASHION ABLE

They say clothes maketh a man, and they aren't wrong. Stock up your wardrobe with the season's finest, and become the style icon you were always meant to be.

Raghavendra Rathore
Bandhgala Jacket

For those who like a tinge of traditional in their attire, here's an exciting Indo-Western option. Raghavendra Rathore, one of the pioneers of the bandhgala, has decided to mix things up with this jacket that's just the right mix of Indian and Western to cater to both sensibilities. This versatile garment can be worn to Indian functions as well as an evening cocktail scene. Additional points for the extremely trendy colour that blends with the palettes of both day and night. Wear it with denims, trousers or chinos!

Price: On request

Alexander McQueen
Shirt

Monochrome — as a trend — has been big for quite some time now, and judging by its popularity, it doesn't seem to be going anywhere anytime soon. This monochrome shirt by Alexander McQueen bears testimony to that. With its unique bird print design and neatly balanced colours, it makes for the perfect party option. Alternatively, you can be quirky and wear it with a suit, in the place of your classic white shirt. Available only at The Collective stores.

Price: On request

Gucci
Biker Jacket

Inside every man is a hidden biker boy who loves to paint the town red. This Gucci unlined biker jacket is your direct entry into that mood. With knitted collar detail and rust finishing on the inside, you'd definitely get that second look in a crowd. While this jacket is a perfect fit with denims and aviators for the night, feel free to experiment and team it up with chinos for a subtle look during the day.

Price: On request

Giorgio Armani
Dinner Jacket

A classic dinner jacket is a piece of garment that every man must have, no matter what! You can be prepared for any occasion — a formal dinner, wedding, even a date — as long as you have it to save the day for you. Giving the black dinner jacket a colourful twist, this Giorgio Armani cherry red jacket in velvet with silk piping on the lapels adds a nice pop of brightness. Team it up with white pants and there's nothing to stop you from making a fancy style statement. Plus, as the colour isn't dark, you can wear it during the day too.

Price: ₹1.7 lakh

Fendi
Designer Belt

Belts have come a long way, from being just an accessory to keep your pants in place to becoming a funky style statement. And yes, they are not just for a formal look. Bright, casual belts are back in fashion and this is your time to update your accessory collection with one. This bright orange belt from Fendi, with brown to balance out the colours, is an exciting way to brighten your look. It'll stand out just enough to keep things chic and won't be too loud for your taste. Wear this with an otherwise solid, sombre look to keep things uber fresh.

PRICE: ON REQUEST

FASHION PLUS

From eyewear to boots and all things in between, here's what you'll need to nail your style.

Corneliani
Leather Pouch

If you're somebody who thinks bags are overkill, look no further than the Corneliani leather pouch. This little thing comes rather handy during an eventful day. You can stuff everything from face wash, phone charger, shaver and mobile phone in here, and still not look like you're carrying a load. As it's in black leather, the pouch will look good on you — night or day.

PRICE: ON REQUEST

Ermenegildo Zegna
Boots

If it's winter, there's just no ignoring boots! They go with both semi-formal and casual looks, and are a fashionable way to keep your feet warm. These dark brown Chelsea boots by Ermenegildo Zegna are a fantastic buy — whether it's for an evening out with mates or a quick weekend getaway. Crafted from rich brown suede on a sturdy rubber sole, these are the most comfortable way to make a style statement in the cold. As the colour is brown, they will go with almost all shades of clothes in your closet. Need more reasons?

PRICE: ON REQUEST

Roberto Cavalli
Sunglasses

A good pair of sunglasses seldom goes out of style, and if it's Roberto Cavalli, the chances are further narrowed down to naught. The sunglasses' oval-shaped design will make you stand out from wayfarers everywhere, and the shade of the glasses soaks up the sun just right during winter. The snake motif, for its part, lends the frame a distinctive touch. Wear this to any occasion of your liking — just remember to maintain eye contact throughout!

PRICE: ON REQUEST

Louis Vuitton Manbag

The bag has become one of the most exciting must-haves for the discerning man. Whether for travel or everyday use, it is the one carry-all for everything you need in a day — right from your iPad to a book that you're reading. This Louis Vuitton bag with its funky print and bright colours will help you break the boredom and stand out in a crowd. What's more, since its shade is muted, it'll go well in summer as well as winter!

PRICE: ON REQUEST

Tumi
Trolley Bag

Make sure your travel is trendy with this Tegra Lite trolley bag from Tumi. Made of Tegris, a unique polypropylene thermoplastic composite, the bag is extremely lightweight and its hardside case makes it perfect for long trips. Besides Tumi's patented X-Brace 45 handle system, the trolly bag sports interior accessory pockets, tie-down straps, TSA integrated locks, bottom grab handles and exterior bumpers for added protection. Spacious, sturdy and good looking, it's perfect for life on the move!

PRICE: ₹67,000

TECH YOUR PICK

Helplessly watching your gizmos go from obsolete to extinct? Here are some high-end gadgets to upgrade your lifestyle with.

Power for your Lap
Acer Aspire S7-392

If you never want to be at a loss for gigahertz, give this baby a try. With IPS technology that squeezes 1,920x1080 resolution into a 13.3-inch screen and shows consistent colours at a viewing angle of up to 170 degrees, the Aspire S7-392 is truly easy on your eye. The laptop's 12.9-mm body houses a powerful Intel Core i7-4500U processor and an impressive 4 GB RAM memory. And what's more, its superior battery ensures that you never go offline! Well, almost never.

Price: ₹1.13 lakh

A Phone of Note
Galaxy Note 3

At a time when iPhone geeks were still awaiting the launch of its 5s version, Samsung came out with the Galaxy Note 3, a significant addition to their family of smartphones. Featuring a 5.7-inch full HD Super AMOLED display, the stylishly slim body of the Note 3 shelters an energetic 2.3GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 800 processor and incorporates the industry's largest 3GB RAM. The phone's 13-MP rear camera is no 41-MP Lumia 1020 monster, but its smart stabilisation function and high CRI LED flash does make photography a pleasurable experience – even in low light situations. Get floored!

Price: ₹49,900

Lose Yourself
Sony HMZ-T2

Entertainment just got rabidly personal! Enter the Sony HMZ-T2, a personal 3D viewer that will make you believe that you're sitting just 12 feet away from a huge 150-inch screen while conveniently shutting the world outside your head. Even as Sony's self-illuminating OLED display panels treat you to striking high-contrast images, the sensational surround sound will bowl you over.

Price: ₹69,990

Let the Games Begin

Alienware 17

You have been making 275 mph on your Hennessey Venom GT, the others are far behind, you're probably going to make it after all, and... your computer hangs. If there's one recurring nightmare that gamers keep having, it's about their laptop jamming up in a crucial phase of *Need For Speed* (or any other game, for that matter). But that's one risk you can forego if you have the latest Dell Alienware 17 laptop, equipped with 16GB RAM, a powerful 4th Gen Intel Core i7-4800MQ processor and a tough-as-nails 3GB NVidia GeForce GTX 770M processor. The Klipsch-powered audio system ensures that the sound doesn't let you down either.

Price: ₹1.91 lakh

Sound Choice

JBL Everest DD66000

Have you ever wanted to scale the heights of sonic clarity from the comfort of living room? If yes, the Project Everest DD66000 from JBL Synthesis would be your best bet – embodying everything from technological prowess, design aesthetic and passion for quality in a single entity that promises to turn your pad into a veritable temple of sound. The audio system excels in every respect, from authoritative bass to remarkably true-to-life vocals and instrumental reproduction. Moreover, its giant 15-inch woofer uses an Aquaplas-treated-pulp cone that preserves neutrality while providing an articulate bass response. Go wild!

Price: ₹1 crore

Television Revolution

Vu 84" Ultra HD TV

The Vu 84" is much more than just another television set, it's a piece of the future demanding a place of pride in your living space. Fashionable, elegant and equipped with the ultimate in audio-visual technology, the device allows you to customise it to the last scratch. The 3D TV set presents you with a gamut of features, including an inbuilt PC with a choice of Windows/ MAC/ Linux and Android operating systems, a gaming console, and the ultimate in high-definition viewing.

Price: ₹9 lakh

Montegrappa
Salvador Dali Limited Edition

The Salvador Dali Limited Edition pen is a tribute to the life and works of the legendary writer, filmmaker and designer. Besides a total of 1989 silver pens being rolled out in this series to denote the year Dali passed away, 19 solid gold rollerball pens and 61 fountain pens will also be introduced to represent 1961 — the year he created The Space Elephant. While the silver Dali edition has the elephant embracing a barrel of Mediterranean blue, the gold version has it in malachite green.

Price: On request

YOUR WRITE TO PERFECTION

Pens can be as beautiful as the written word. Some luxurious writing instruments that evoke artistry with every scribble

Mont Blanc
Genghis Khan Limited Edition

Brought out in honour of the ferocious Mongolian leader, there are just 35 pieces of the Mont Blanc Genghis Khan Limited Edition available worldwide. While the cap, barrel and rings of the pen are inspired by Mongolian armour and ornaments, Khan's helmet is reflected in the cap-top design with a hand-engraved pattern. The nib has been engraved with the steppe eagle, and the cone of the pen is made of ebony and set with a 0.5 carat cut diamond. To be launched this year.

Price: On request

Visconti Pininfarina
Carbongrafite

Crafted by Visconti Pininfarina, the car design firm that has worked on the interiors of automobile brands such as Ferrari, Rolls Royce and Jaguar, the Carbongrafite bears a signature racy and sharp look. The fountain pen, available in shades of black and silver, is not just for lovers of luxurious cars but also those who like to keep things classy and cutting edge. In India, this limited edition pen is available only at William Penn stores.

Price: ₹1.6 lakh

Where the Kabab is King!

Delhi | Noida | Gurgaon | Ahmedabad | Bangalore | Chennai | Jaipur | Jalandhar | Mumbai | Pune | Ranchi | Varanasi | Bangkok | Muscat

Website:www.thegreatkababfactory.com; Email: info@umakhospitality.com

The Great Kabab Factory is an Indian specialty restaurant offering a unique dining experience. Using recipes combining the ancient with the contemporary, TGKF brings delectable kababs from all over the Indian subcontinent. At The Great Kabab Factory, one can experience mouth-watering kababs prepared in seven different styles, roasted on the tandoor or on a singhri, shallow-fried in a tawa or a mahi tawa, deep-fried in a kadhai, steamed in pots or even grilled on a stone. A different menu is set for each day and guests are served unlimited servings of each dish, either vegetarian or non-vegetarian. Indulge in unlimited servings of rustic, smoky and succulent kababs. Choose from the widespread of biryanis, curries, exotic Indian breads, daals, seasonal vegetables, delightful desserts and much more..

The signature dishes have been created after a decade of extensive research and development. TGKF owns a recipe bank of over 450 kababs which include many closely guarded family recipes passed down through the ages. Various imitations have been created but none match the unique flavor and aromas of the original TGKF signature kababs.

For the vegetarian clientele, the master chefs have introduced kababs such as tandoori broccoli and subz galouti which are unique to the TGKF dining experience. All the retail locations worldwide use the TGKF proprietary spice packs that ensure the same great taste everywhere.

■ THE GREAT KABAB FACTORY 'EXPERIENCE':

When dining at TGKF a guest would get the feel of dining within a virtual food factory. The cutlery resembling factory tools and the metal serving dishes are all factories like. The staff wears dungarees to highlight the fact that they are all like factory workers. An open kitchen allows guests to enjoy the feel of eating within a factory premises. Each TGKF outlet exudes vibrant colors, lively sounds and a very distinct ambience which adds to the ethnic yet modern feel to the overall restaurant concept.

WHISTLER WONDERFUL

Whether you alpine ski or not, the famous resort area offers cross-country skiing and snowshoeing plus dining, spas and arts & culture

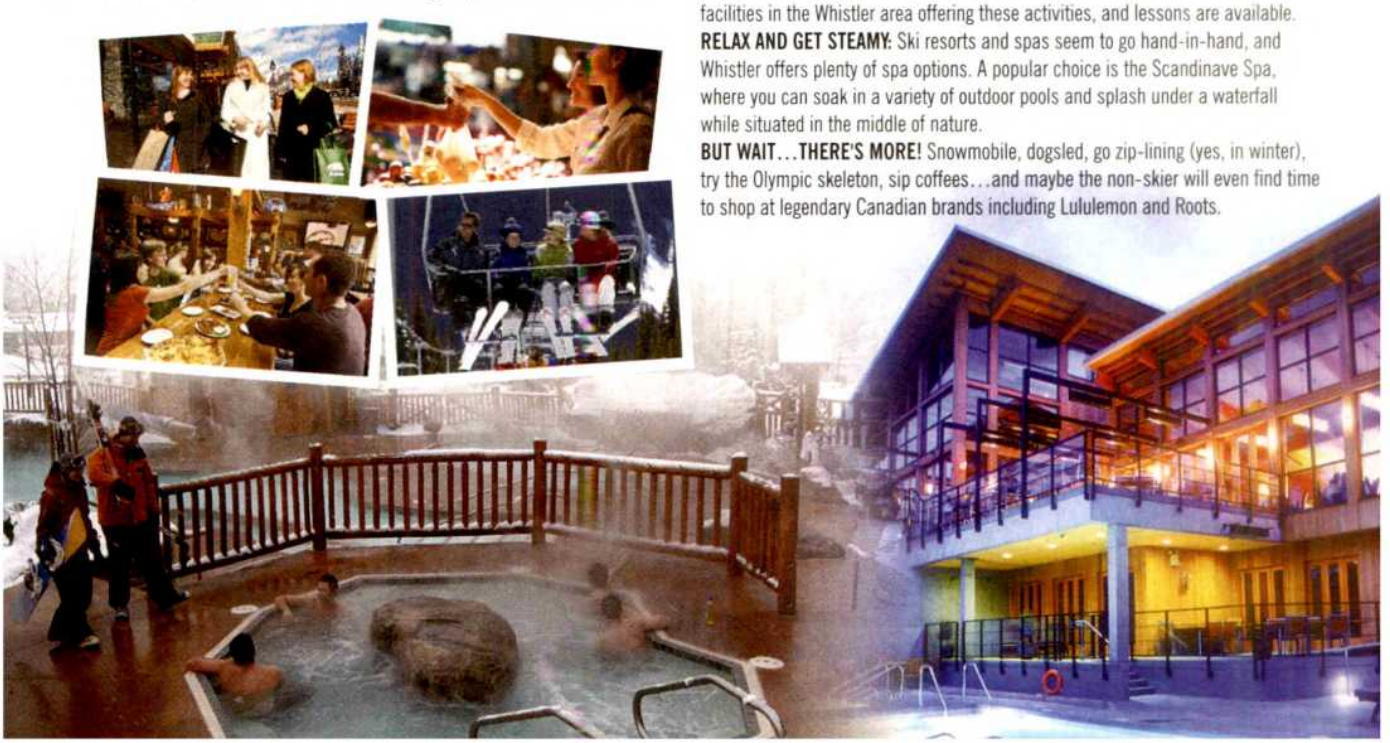
GO SKY HIGH BETWEEN MOUNTAIN PEAKS: Easily combine the skier's day with the non-skier's day as you ride up from the base together on the smaller Whistler Gondola, eat really good food in the Round House, ride astonishing Peak2Peak Gondola and then go your separate ways.

INDULGE YOUR FOODIE SIDE: There are far more great places to eat in Whistler than you can try on one vacation. The folks behind Whistler Tasting Tours help you get a decent sampling. One of their tours introduced me to the best Greek lamb I've ever tasted.

GO INTO A WINTER WONDERLAND: Cross-country skiing is much easier to learn than downhill skiing/boarding, and snowshoeing is even easier. There are three facilities in the Whistler area offering these activities, and lessons are available.

RELAX AND GET STEAMY: Ski resorts and spas seem to go hand-in-hand, and Whistler offers plenty of spa options. A popular choice is the Scandinave Spa, where you can soak in a variety of outdoor pools and splash under a waterfall while situated in the middle of nature.

BUT WAIT...THERE'S MORE! Snowmobile, dogsled, go zip-lining (yes, in winter), try the Olympic skeleton, sip coffees...and maybe the non-skier will even find time to shop at legendary Canadian brands including Lululemon and Roots.



Smooth Operator

Miele Rotary Iron

Miele's Rotary Iron is a glamorous answer to all your ironing woes! Equipped with an 83-cm-wide roller, the gadget makes ironing anything – from duvets and covers to bulky items – seem like a breeze. The space-saving iron has an easily foldable mechanism, wheels and a wide foot control bar that stops and starts the ironer, leaving your hands free to feed clothes into the roller. The intuitive single-task mini robot makes sure that no damage is caused by the slip of a finger. Now, that's playing it smart.

Price: ₹1,74,990

THE HOME OF GOOD THINGS

What makes a house a home? Among other things, gorgeous furniture! We know comfort is paramount and style indispensable, so here's a list of trendy masterpieces that should occupy pride of place in your den.

Fit for Nobility

Aristocrat Table

A skillful reflection of its patron's personality, the custom-designed Aristocrat Table from 'V Renaissance' speaks volumes on understated elegance. With a table top of rich moss green leather, hand-carved teakwood legs and a velvet-lined drawer, you might just wish the paperwork never ends. The table top is hinged artistically for smooth elevation. The perfect combination of beauty and brawn, the table has gold trimmings and a snazzy locking mechanism.

Price: ₹2 lakh

Monkey Kitsch

Casa Paradox High-Rise Chair

Aesthetics take a disarmingly kitschy turn with this high-rise chair from Casa Paradox. Part of the zany 'Illustratti' collection, it engages you with its outrageously outlandish theme. The chair artfully showcases the concept of digital art on canvas, creating a glamorous piece that your guests might just fight to sit on. The colours on the canvas play off each other to sharpen the contrast in shades etched out with sharp contours.

Price: On request

Plush Nest

Ploum from Ligne Roset

Redefining the concept of plush, this luxurious settee from Ligne Roset beckons you to sit, stretch or just curl up on it with a good book. The Ploum's free flowing and gracefully curved form provides a welcome break from sitting ramrod straight, allowing for any number of postures, supported by a comprehensive contact area. It can comfortably accommodate four persons and almost surreptitiously nudge them into conversation with its slightly closed angle. Available in a variety of lively pastel shades, it injects instant style into your living room.

Price: On request

Let there be Light

Belle De Nuit Lamp

Patterned, etched and moulded into chic finesse, the Belle De Nuit Lamp is nothing short of a must-have fashion fixture in your living room. The porcelain lamp is designed with particular emphasis on capturing a flexible form. Its expanded base tapers gracefully, then blossoms into an etched segment with clean lines and tapers yet again to incorporate an intricate pattern of textures. Its captivating shade of azure blue suffuses the room with a translucent glow reminiscent of the clean, wide sky.

Price: ₹60,700

OF EXOTIC LANDS

Soul-soothing and heart-warming, our pick of luxury destinations has something for everyone — nature lovers, adventurers and history buffs

Medieval Muse

Mallorca

Mallorca, the jewel in the crown of the Balearic Islands, is a patchwork of cosmopolitan glitter and rustic charm melded into a beautifully amalgamated Spanish extravaganza. Laid out in seemingly alternating stripes of chicness and tranquility, sprawling boutique hotels stand sentinel over olive groves and golden wheat fields. Charter a yacht with provisions for snorkeling to explore the ostentatiously picturesque and uninhabited islets, replete with towering escarpments and azure waters. Sun-dappled villages lining the rugged coastline shelter quaint fincas (private farms converted into luxurious agroturismos) among the pine groves.

INFO

STAY AT

La Residencia set in the hilltop village of Deia, the Mallorcan cradle of art, has gorgeous individual villas set amidst lush orange orchards and olive groves.

MUST-VISIT SPOTS

Valldemossa, Soller, Formentera Fornalutx

History Calling
Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik, famously referred to as the 'Pearl of the Adriatic', is tangibly cloaked in heritage, and retains much of its medieval charm. Lose yourself in the history-soaked atmosphere of the Old Town Centre, which has a sizeable cluster of museums and a thriving theatre scene. Charming bistros line the square where culinary delights abound – in the form of artichoke and ricotta ravioli and glazed rabbit with hazelnuts and wild mushrooms. Another must-try is the fish, caught fresh from the Adriatic.

INFO

STAY AT
Villa Dubrovnik, a renovated boutique hotel, has gorgeous suites overlooking the Adriatic and two private villas that come with their own exclusive services.

MUST-VISIT SPOTS
Lokrum, Franciscan Monastery, Lovrijenac

PHOTO: FREGATE ISLAND PRIVATE

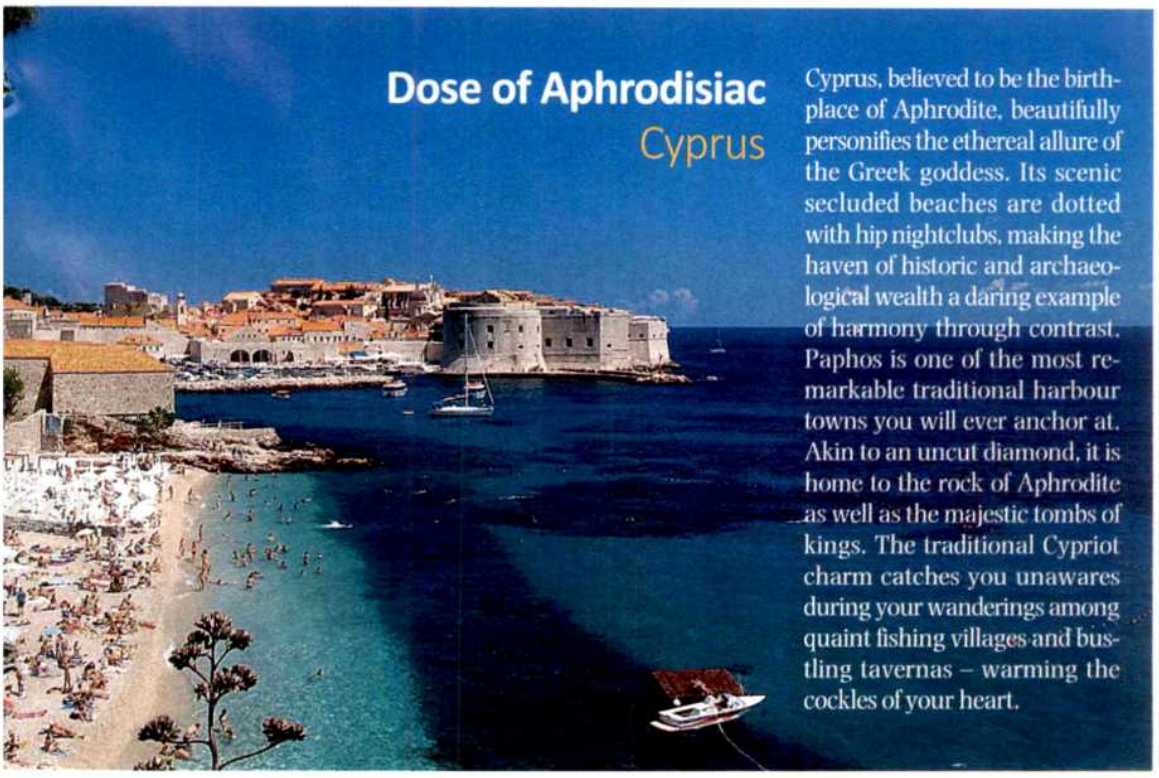
Tropical Paradise Seychelles

If you are in dire need of unwinding, immerse yourself in the depths of nature at Seychelles — soaking up the balmy, tropical weather and breathing in the wild yet pristine beauty of the islands. The archipelago of 155 islands, lined with granite and coral, embodies unearthly beauty brimming with the secrets of the sea. When you have had your fill of staring at stretches of white beaches daintily petering into gorgeously turquoise waters, go scuba diving or snorkeling. Try your hand at fishing at one of the low-lying coral atolls and marvel at the sheer variety of marine life.

INFO

STAY AT
Feel one with nature at the luxurious Fregate Island resort, developed in harmony with the natural surroundings, where giant Aldabra tortoises and sea turtles roam free.

MUST-VISIT SPOTS
Curieuse Island, Petite Anse Beach, Mahe, Sainte Anne Marine National Park



Dose of Aphrodisiac
Cyprus

Cyprus, believed to be the birthplace of Aphrodite, beautifully personifies the ethereal allure of the Greek goddess. Its scenic secluded beaches are dotted with hip nightclubs, making the haven of historic and archaeological wealth a daring example of harmony through contrast. Paphos is one of the most remarkable traditional harbour towns you will ever anchor at. Akin to an uncut diamond, it is home to the rock of Aphrodite as well as the majestic tombs of kings. The traditional Cypriot charm catches you unawares during your wanderings among quaint fishing villages and bustling tavernas – warming the cockles of your heart.

INFO

STAY AT
Anassa, (Thanos Hotel group) designed in the style of a luxurious Byzantine village straddles a low cliff top overlooking a long stretch of beach.

MUST-VISIT SPOTS
Limassol, Troodos Mountains, Ayia Napa, Coral Bay

Call it quits, in style

A Jerry Maguire exit may not be the best way to leave your job in real life. An eight-point checklist to ensure that you do not burn any bridges as you bid an old job adieu

TEXT BY JIMMY J

IT'S PAYBACK TIME.
You just bagged a new job, and today's when you get to accost your soon-to-be-former boss with your resignation letter and a whole bunch of scathing one-liners. So you walk into his office, papers in hand, and eloquently recite them until you have succeeded in scraping the very last bit of that smug smile from his face.

Showed him, didn't you? The rest of your working day is spent on boasting about your next job to your colleagues, and that evening, you pack your odds-and-ends and head out. But, wait! Exciting as the road ahead may appear, aren't you closing the door a little too tightly behind you?

Sure, quitting a job for better pay or perks is only natural, but be careful about exiting the right way if you want to stay ahead in the game. Some tips on how to resign with grace.

STRATEGISE

Put as much thought into your resignation as a job interview. The language in your letter of farewell should be framed as delicately as possible, and – even if you feel the need to elaborate on your reasons for doing so – ensure that you do not create any negative feelings in the process. A good attitude is important. Try to be

as diplomatic as possible with your superiors when you call it quits; it's a small world, and you never know where you will bump into them next. "Also, as there is the possibility of going back to work with the same employer, one must part ways in a friendly manner. Even if someone has resigned due to professional reasons, the person can always find an attractive position in the previous firm a few years down the line," says Shainu Varghese, an HR manager with the Chennai wing of an IT multinational.

LIPS SEALED

Don't go around boasting about your new job to your co-workers before you have actually submitted the resignation letter. Chances are, the issue may reach your boss's ears before you get a chance to meet him, and this wouldn't bode well for your relationship with him. Also, make sure that you present him with a printed copy of your resignation letter before sending the email along. Resigning solely by email is woefully disrespectful, and while there are some bosses who may not mind you taking this impersonal route out of an uncomfortable situation, there are many others who may do so.

BE PREPARED

While your resignation letter may be greeted with a variety of emotions, there is a good chance that it may come as a complete shock to your superiors. But whatever their reaction may be, respond in a calm, collected manner that reflects your understanding of the situation and demonstrates that you are taking the step after a lot of thought. Even if your boss turns confrontational and resorts to blackmail, emotional or otherwise, do not get drawn into a meaningless argument. You have decided to leave your job; it's not a crime, and there's no reason to get defensive about it. Be polite, but remain firm.

PENDING PROJECTS

Be sure to tie up every loose end before your last day at work – there are few things that irk an employer more than a person who abandons his post without finishing all the tasks assigned to him. The people taking over from you will not appreciate being left holding the baby, and if the news gets through, even your new employers may shake their heads at the way you handle responsibility. "In your last days, every effort should be taken to ensure that your former employers don't feel resentful towards

While submitting your resignation, try to be as diplomatic as possible with your superiors. And smile, always.

- Help a co-worker understand your tasks, so there can be a smooth takeover once you are gone.
- Collect all the documents you may need in your next job; it may be difficult to get them once you have left the organisation. The documents may include:

  •Resignation acknowledgment letter
  •Performance appraisals
  •Relieving letter
  •Salary payslips
  •E-mail addresses and phone numbers of contacts
  •Experience certificate
- Clear your table. Others may not like cleaning up after you.
- Ensure that all your projects have been completed.
- Send 'thank you' notes to your co-workers and seniors and, if possible, take them out for lunch. A little goodwill can help a lot in the future.

you," says Varghese. "These days, background checks are done in most industries, and they invariably involve contacting the candidate's previous employer. In case the ex-employee has left without completing formalities, or without finishing the tasks assigned to him, this could find mention in the report."

NOTICE PERIOD

Ideally, a person should give his former employers enough time to find an apt replacement before he walks out of the door. The length of the notice period may vary from one establishment to the other, some extending to as many as three months. But if your new employers aren't willing to wait that long, you may have to start negotiating an early exit date – without stepping on any toes, of course. Start by talking to people at both ends. If your new employers want you to join within a month, check if they can settle on 45 days. The HR personnel and bosses at your current establishment should not have a problem with that, provided you asked them politely.

EXPRESS YOURSELF... NICELY

It is not advisable to say anything negative to your superiors during your exit process, but if you absolutely insist on doing so, don't type it off in a mail. A face-to-face interaction with the person concerned could work just as well, without making the matter "official" by putting it in writing.

You can always express your grouses in the exit interview as long as it's done in a civil manner. Varghese says, "Exit interviews help employers understand why someone's leaving the job. While it may not be possible to take up each and every comment made by an exiting employee, they can definitely use it to identify trends and take action over a period of time."

KEEP AN OPEN MIND

Be open to counter-offers that your company may come up with. If your present organisation decides to match your salary and position with what's being offered by the new firm, it only goes to show that they value your work and contribution very highly. Weigh both the offers and decide on the one that suits you better, making every effort to prevent antagonizing either side. Varghese, in fact, insists on a conversation about the resignation with the boss or HR personnel concerned before making it official. "Such a step would help clear misunderstandings, set expectations for your notice period, and – at times – even change your mind about having to resign," he says. However, if you have made up your mind about leaving the job, ensure that you confirm your exit plans and last working day a second time – through email.

▼ Make sure you have thoroughly cleaned up your table before leaving

DON'T LOSE TOUCH

Leaving your job doesn't necessarily have to mean cutting all communication with your former employers. Keep in touch with your superiors and colleagues in the old job, and if you are up to it, make it a point to meet them informally from time to time. Such a move would ensure that your name pops into their mind every time somebody asks them to make a job recommendation.

Quitting your job gracefully is no easy task, and there's every chance that you may step on a toe or two. But if you stick to these eight commandments, in addition to a steadfast smile on your face, the door just may not bang shut behind you.

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SWEETNESS AND (DE)LIGHT:
THE SWATCH PASTRY
CHEFS SPECIAL FROM SARA HOCHULI

Sara Hochuli is a most extraordinary pastry chef and Maitre de chocolat from Zurich (Switzerland). For the Swatch Spring 2014 Collection she has created DREAMCAKE, the spectacular Swatch Pastry Chefs Special.

Miyuko is a character Sara invented who lives in a virtual Tokyo with her friends, gives life to the cafe and inspires the making of real, very tasty sweets. She is also the muse who led Sara to create a special treat for Swatch fans. DREAMCAKE, the Swatch Pastry Chefs Special, dreamed up by Sara and made real in collaboration with Swatch, is unmistakably inspired by her love for Japan. It's the color of cherry blossoms in spring, and looks just like a cake from Sara's cafe. It's decorated with a rose bow and cherry blossoms, has a cake knife and a fork to tell time on the dial, and the rose strap features a delicate pink flower on the rose loop.

Not only does the watch look like one of Sara Hochuli's cakes, it comes in a Special Packaging that looks like one, too. And for all culinary artists, friends and fans of her work, Sara has included a recipe for one of her cakes. It's printed on the Special Packaging. Try it—it's all sweetness and delight.

Drink and Beer it

Loosen your tie and party all night at The Barking Deer, Mumbai. BY SUHANI SINGH

MANY A DINING AND NIGHTLIFE JOINT IS littered across Lower Parel to cater to its clientele of business executives, but no Tryst, Cafe Zoe or Blue Frog can claim to have a microbrewery like that of The Barking Deer. And the pub doesn't shy away from advertising its USP either; large steel vats form as much a part of the decor as the brick walls, the wooden furniture, and the deer trophies on the shelves. The customers may have emerged from stuffy offices, but once in this establishment, they are quick to rub off even the last vestige of formality to partake in an evening of unabashed revelry.

Our visit to the pub coincided with its 'retro night', an occasion where office-goers are encouraged to loosen their ties, let their hair down and croon along to songs as diverse as Joan Jett's *I love rock 'n' roll* to Backstreet Boys' *Quit playing games*. Party now, the mood of the moment seemed to say, and worry about the hangover later.

The Barking Deer currently has three in-house brewed beers, and there are more on the way. While its women patrons are likely to fancy the citrus-y but lighter Flying Pig and Belgian Wit, the male party animal may savour the heavier and bitter concoction that is the Indian Pale Ale.

Indian pale ale
Farmer's pie

Meal for two
₹2,500

Senapati Bapat Marg,
Lower Parel

022-33130730

After nibbling on the French fries, we went for the tandoor cottage cheese tikka, which was soft and marinated well with coriander and mint chutney. We tried the dishes under the 'Pub Classics' header for the mains, only to find that the gravy of the Irish lamb stew was overtly sweet. The all-vegetarian farmer's pie came with a nice creamy layer of mashed potatoes and parmesan, but as we dug deep, the flavour of the tangy tomato sauce was lost. The meal was rounded up with a date and almond torte, and though it was pink peppercorn ice cream that we craved, we received a dollop of whipped cream.

The food at The Barking Deer was a hit-and-miss affair, but the portions were generous and we stepped out feeling tipsy and well-fed. A good place to go for beer and some carefree partying.

The Barking Deer shows off its microbrewery units with panache, (inset) the yummy Chicago steak house ▲

The cosy interiors of K3 put you at ease, making you feel at home ▲
The delectable pan-seared fish with greens is a must-try ▶

Three to Tango

With three cuisines and three different flavours, K3 at the JW Marriott is delectable fun three times over. BY SAURAV BHANOT

A TRUE FOODIE WILL NEVER RESIST the temptation to chow down, no matter how much they pile up on your plate. Serving North Indian, Cantonese and Tuscan cuisines, the K3 restaurant — complete with corresponding live kitchens and specialty chefs — caters to taste buds as vibrant as the ethnicity of its food.

While there is a lot to savour at K3, try out a little bit of each cuisine instead of going all out on one. I chose to start with the Cantonese menu -- more specifically, their barbeque. The first delicacies to land on my sparkling bone china plate were barbequed crisp pork charsiew and Peking style roast duck and chicken, which turned out to be sumptuous as well as flavourful. Even the signature dimsums, consisting of prawn har gao, chicken siew mai and crab dumplings, were extremely delectable.

For lovers of Italian food, the homemade ricotta with bell pepper marmalade seemed both unique and appetising. While the tagliatelle with pomodoro sauce came across as a bit too basic in flavour, the melt-in-the-mouth pan-seared fish with greens more than made up for it. Other notable mentions are the prosciutto crudo and pomodorini pizza.

The Indian kitchen has its share of gems too. The gosht galouti kebabs turned out to have just the right balance between tender and tasteful, and the dum biryani — made with sella rice — was perfectly cooked. Though the nalli ka korma wasn't bad, it paled in comparison to the other dishes on the menu. The highlight, however, was the tadkeywali bhindi — which may well turn out to be one of the best versions of the ladyfinger you'll ever have!

The Benaras, a unique vodka-based paan flavoured cocktail, went best with the Indian fare. But if you're having Italian, be sure to order the limoncello — a refreshing Italian lemon liquer.

Very rarely do restaurants succeed in getting both quantity and taste right with their food, but K3 has it bang on! Highly recommended.

Crisp pork charsiew
Gosht galouti kebab

Meal for two
(alcohol extra)
₹1,500

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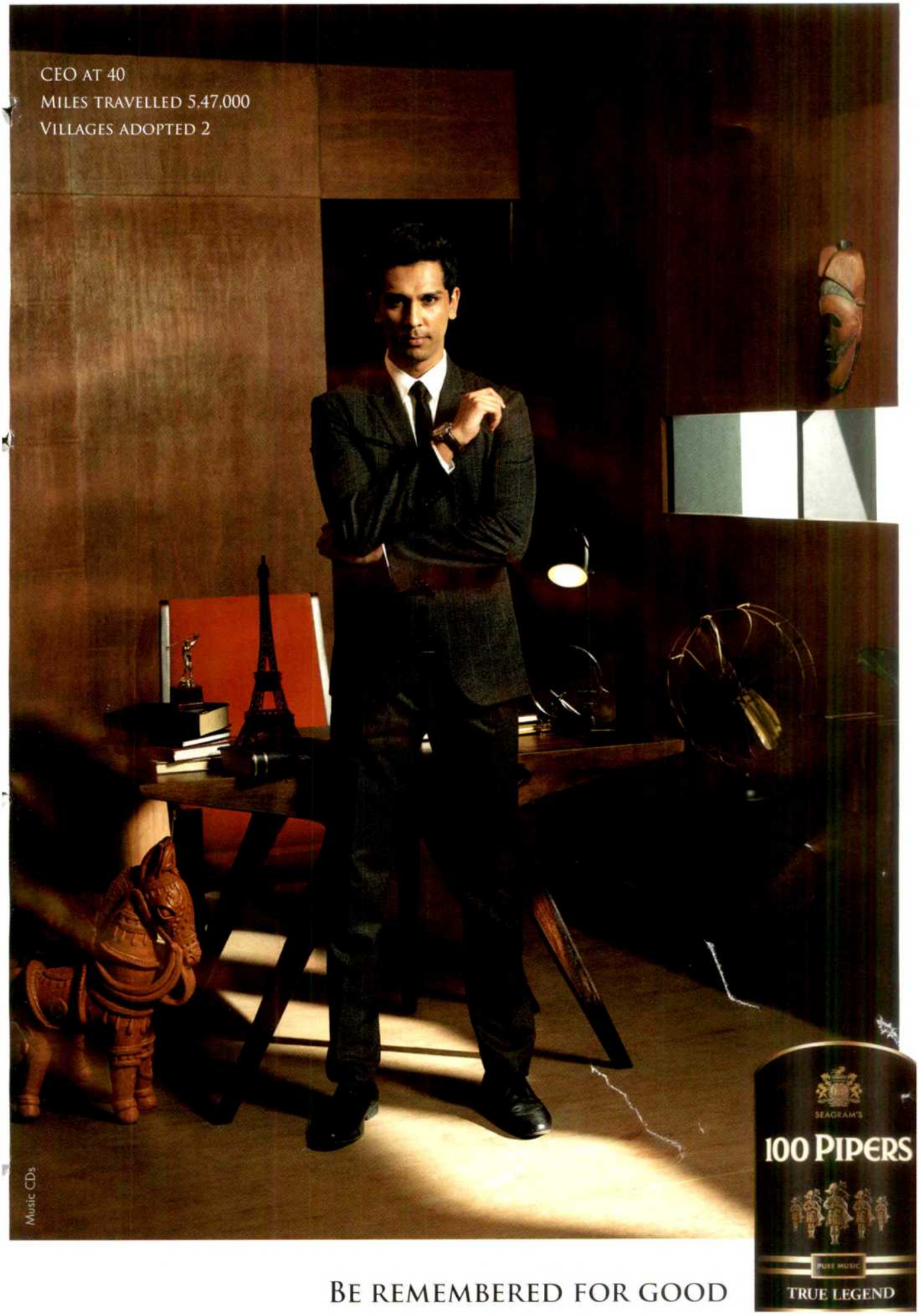
splurge

GAME OF THRONES

IT ISN'T EVERYDAY THAT YOU COME ACROSS SOMETHING LIKE THIS. BUT IF McDERMOTT HANDCRAFTED cues have their way, you just might see this at a pool table soon. The company, which manufactures exclusive handcrafted cues, has designed the Intimidator, the world's most expensive pool cue. Inlaid with 24-carat gold and featuring four bladed wings that can rip apart a pool table, the Intimidator is a 3D piece with 46 individual parts made of stainless steel and genuine Italian Obsidian-cum-gold. Designed over a period of 1,862 hours, it also has over 210 separate inlays — including 112 hand-polished precious metal inlays on the handle. The Intimidator spans a length of 63 inches from the Obsidian sphere to the leather tip, and its total weight is 9.5 pounds. The wingspan of the large blade is 9 inches and the total length of the exposed blades is 48 inches for the larger ones and 13 inches for the smaller ones. **Price: $150,000.**



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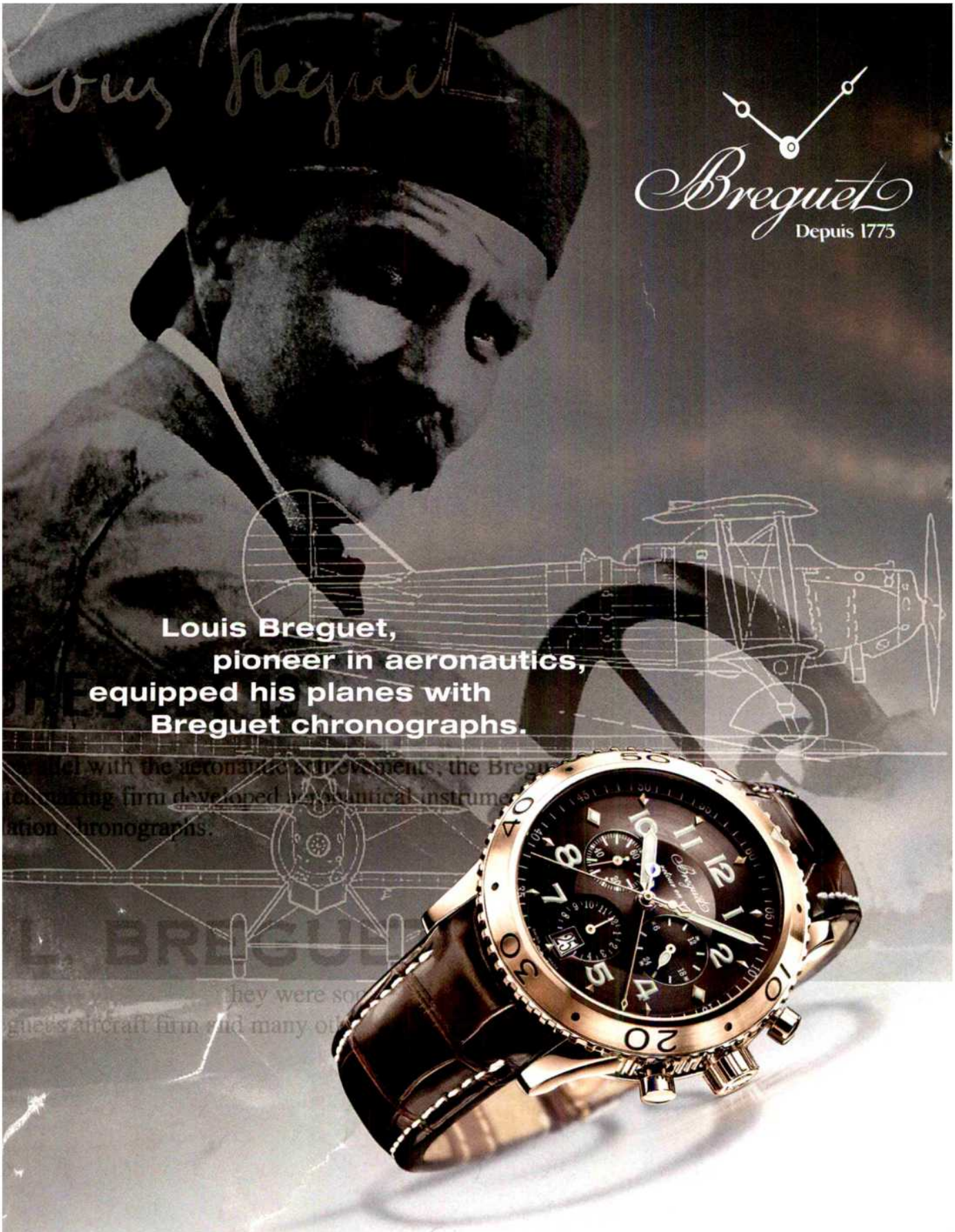

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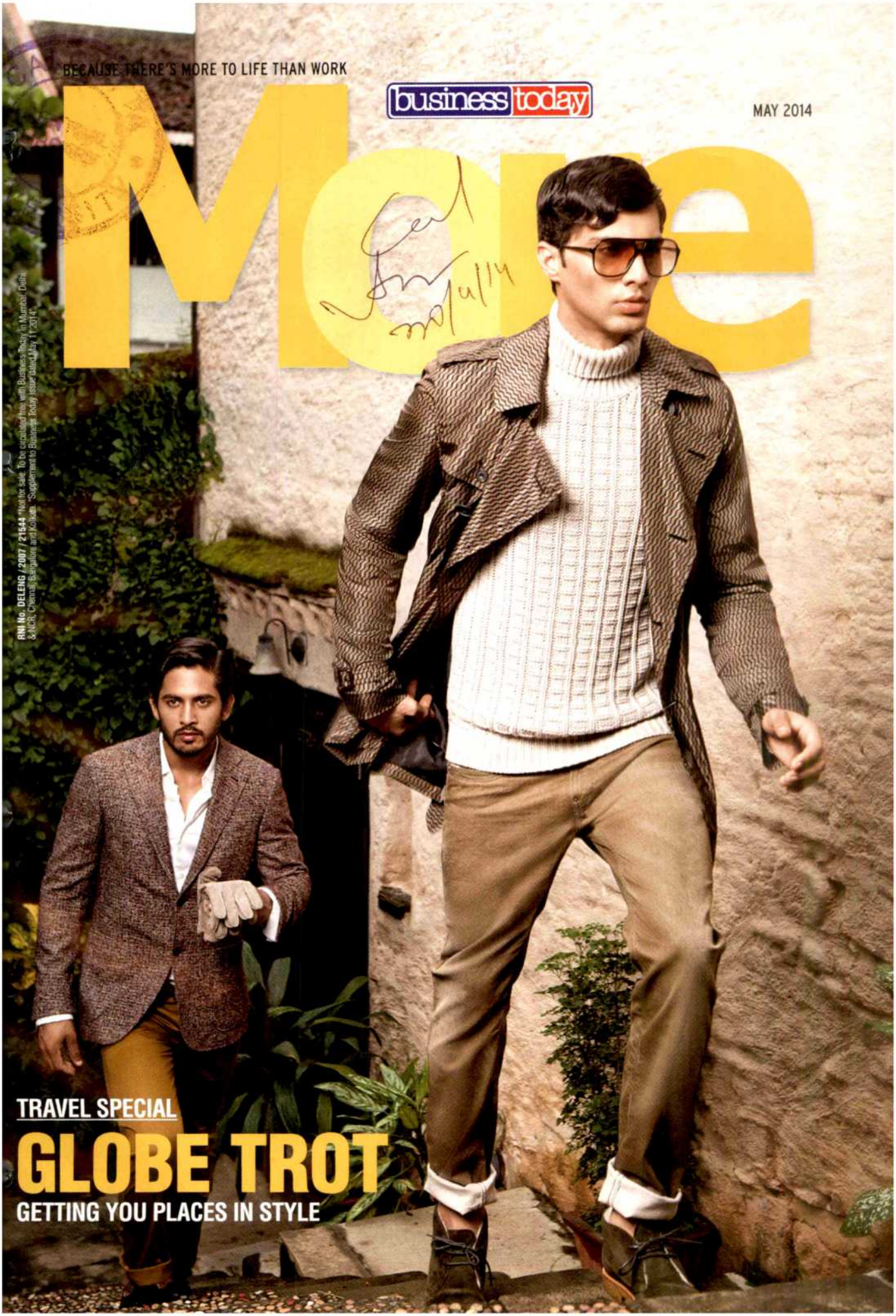

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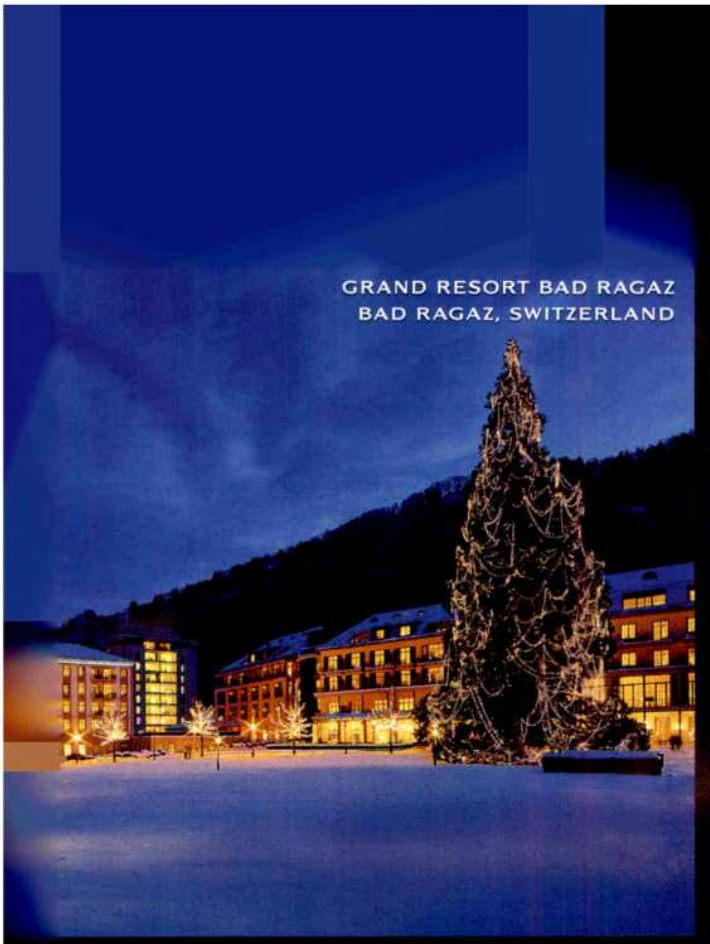
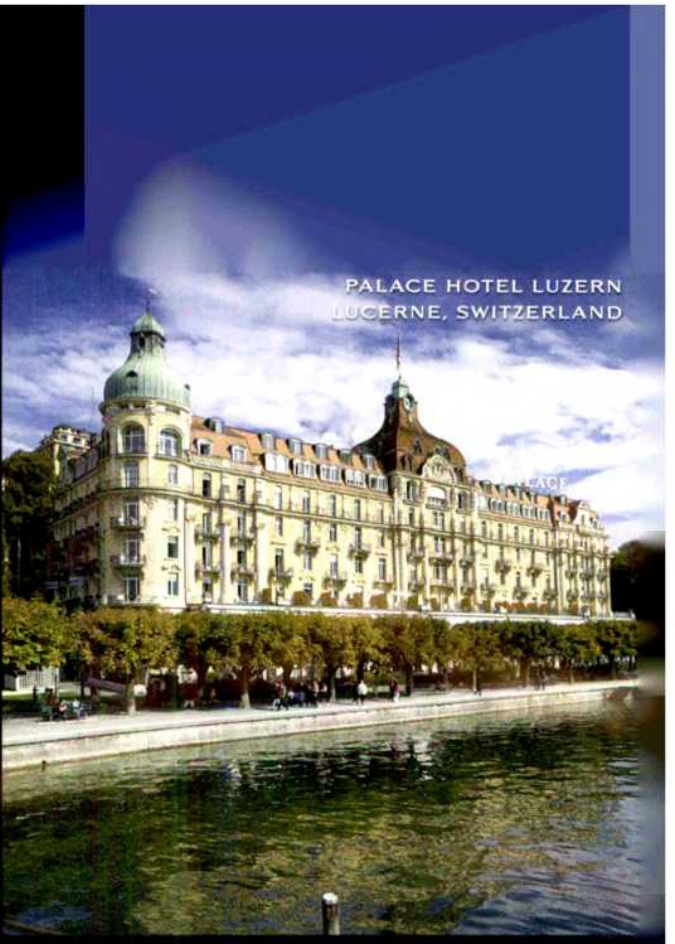
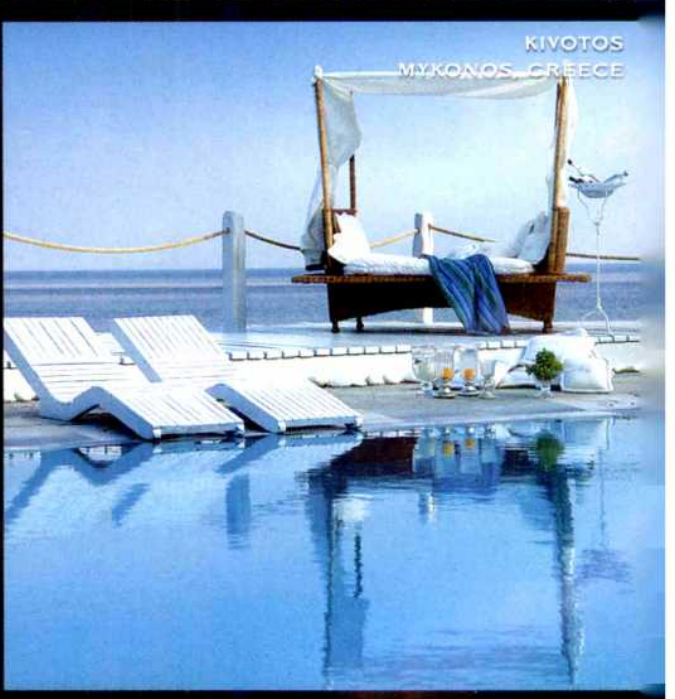
GETTING YOU PLACES IN STYLE







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SACHIN RUHIL

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PRODUCTION
HARISH AGGARWAL
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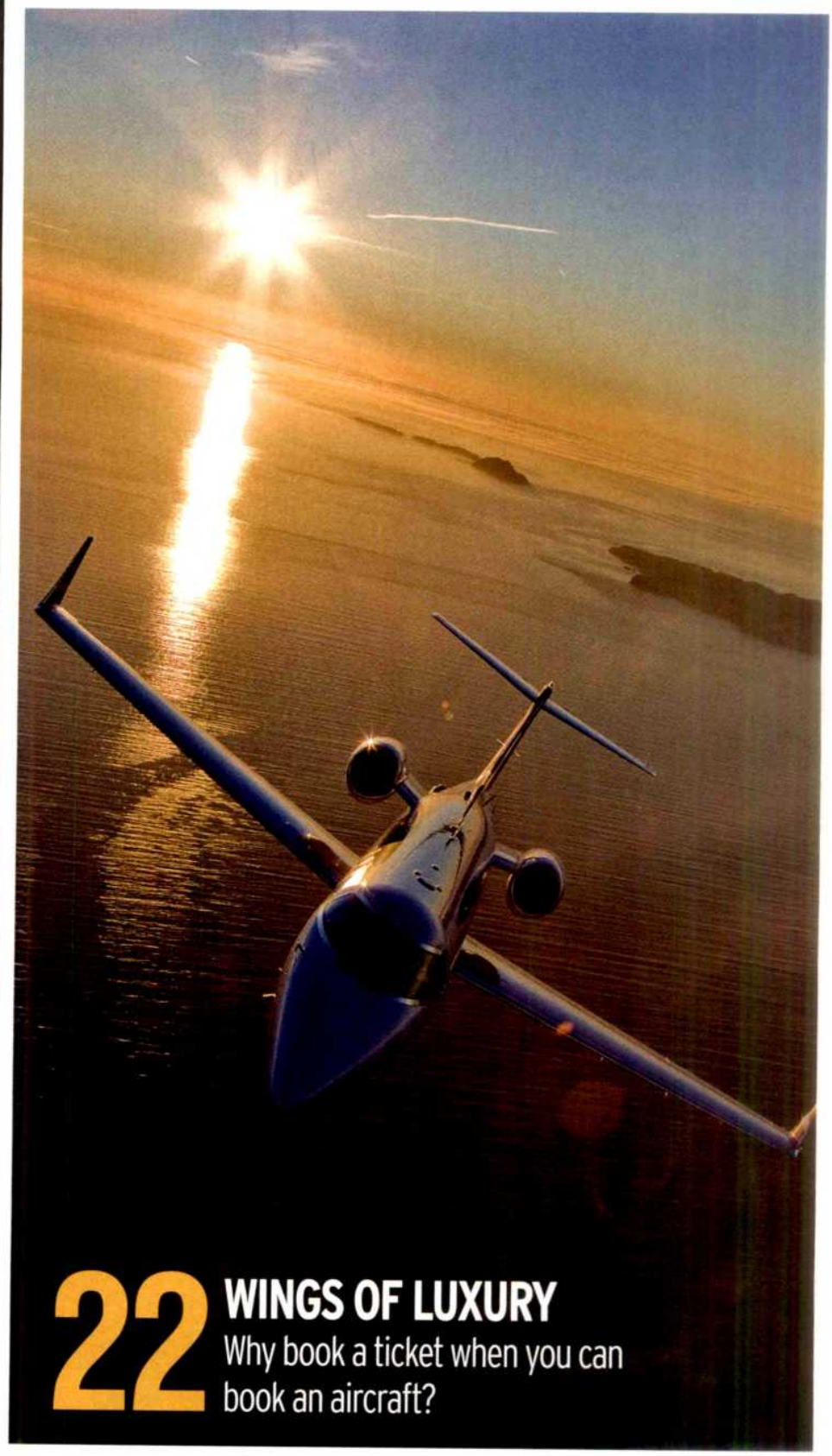

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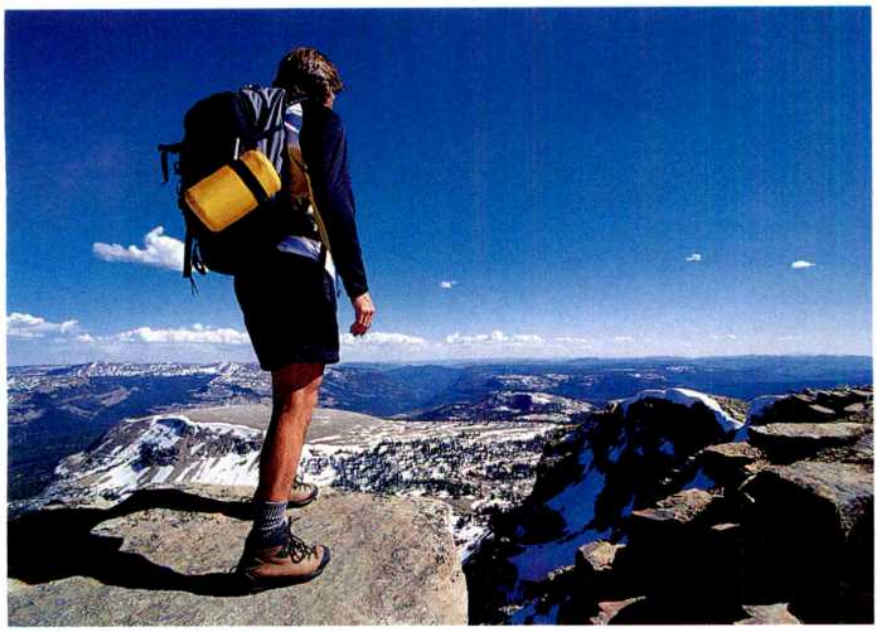
Travellin' Right

Rid your travel plans of road bumps. Travel curators Manjari Verma and Avani Patel of Broken Compass show you how.



PICK THE BEST TIME

When on a much longed-for vacation, bad weather can be a real dampener. To dodge rainy days and make each moment count, check local weather before fixing the dates of your trip. Cross-check with local agents before deciding on the dates to confirm that must-see spots are open to visitors. Avoid slotting trips in peak tourist season; overzealous (and often, noisy) fellow-visitors can be quite a bother when you are trying catch a glimpse of a mountain peak or simply strolling through a monastery.

FIND YOUR DESTINATION

Take word-of-mouth recommendations into account when planning trips, but make sure the place is your kind of destination. Prioritise the locations you have been wanting to visit and check out activities that suit your personality. Don't head to the Kerala backwaters just because your friends rave about it. If you're a party animal at heart, you would rather lounge on the beaches of Goa. Once you've zeroed in on the place, be open to trying things that normally do not find space on your itinerary.

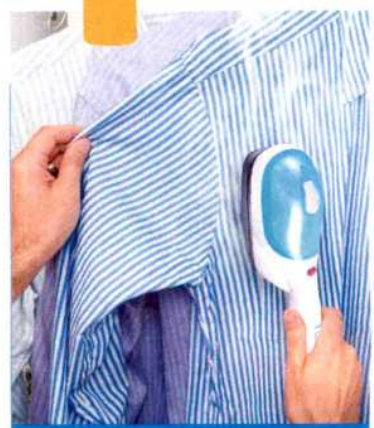
DON'T CRAM IN TOO MUCH

We tend to lose sight of the basic objective of a trip and fill the days with incessant sightseeing. Explore an area at your own pace and soak up the vibes. Follow an itinerary, but let it be flexible. You don't want the vacation to seem like a day at work, complete with a rigid schedule. Identify the basic routes and sequence of exploring a locality before venturing out and, preferably, have a back-up plan in case a day's trip doesn't work out.

RENT A ROOST

Online research on hotels before picking one gives you a good idea of what to expect. Go through the latest hotel reviews because they usually give an honest account of experiences and services offered. Prioritise your requirements if you are accompanied by children, or need a spa to be attached to the hotel.

4 top travel essentials



Travel Clothes Steamer
This portable handy companion fits in your travel bag on business trips and makes short work of wrinkles, letting you head to meetings in picture-perfect form. It also beats lugging an iron around.

Stain Stick
To pre-empt the embarrassment of those inadvertent spills, keep this on yourself at all times. Small enough to fit in your pocket, this trusty stain remover magically makes spots vanish.

High-gloss Shoe Wipes
No more scruffy shoes. Get the dazzle back in your leather shoes with this clever last-minute resort. This one's particularly recommended for crucial business meetings.

Shoe Trees
A smart device that keeps your designer shoes from getting squashed and bent, this is a must-have when travelling. Usually made of wood, it absorbs any unwelcome odours and leaves your suitcase clean.

Explore SWITZERLAND with SWISS PASS the All in One ticket.

Exploring Switzerland with the Swiss Pass is easy, efficient and economical. With the Swiss Pass you can travel on all modes of public transportation in Switzerland - rail, road and waterways throughout Switzerland as well as on trams and local transport in 75 towns and cities. And it includes many added benefits such as discounts and free entrances. Enjoy total travel freedom – with just a single ticket.
No matter when and where you wish to travel, standing in line at the ticket machine is a thing of the past. Just come aboard and discover the delightful diversity of Switzerland with a single ticket.

SWISS PASS- Consecutive Travel Days

Adult	4 days	8 days	15 days
First Class	€354 (₹30,000)	€511 (₹42,950)	€620 (₹50,050)
Second Class	€221 (₹18,570)	€320 (₹26,850)	€387 (₹32,500)

SPECIAL OFFER! Swiss Peak Pass

Exploring the Swiss Alps has become even easier in 2014, with the Swiss Travel System's special Swiss Peak Pass. For an additional fee of € 24 with the 4-day Swiss Pass or € 49 with the 8-day Swiss Pass, you'll receive the following eight mountain excursions for free: **the Allalin, Brienzer Rothorn, Cardada, Corvatsch, Niesen, Rochers-de-Naye, Säntis and Stanserhorn Cabrio**

10%
Discount for two or more people travelling together

Travelling in Switzerland with a partner or a group? If so, the Swiss Saver Pass gives you a 10% discount off the regular price of the Swiss Pass. Young adults aged under 26 travelling in Switzerland by train, bus or boat can save even more – the Swiss Youth Pass costs 25% less than the regular Swiss Pass.

Why you should choose Swiss Pass?

1. **Unlimited travel** by rail, road and waterway.
2. Free travel on **panorama routes**.
3. Free travel on **public transport in 75 towns and cities.**
4. Free admission to more than **470 museums.**
5. 50% discount off most **mountain railways**.
6. Children under age 16 travel free of charge when accompanied by at least one parent holding a **Swiss Family Card.**

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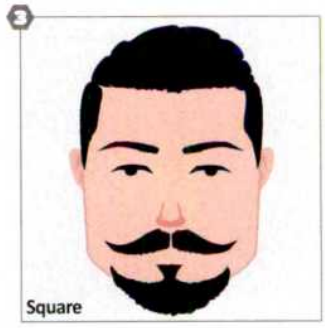
For more information, visit MySwitzerland.com/rail

Shape of your Beard

You need a squared-off, full beard to cloak the prominence of your chin and create a strong jawline. Maintain fullness of the beard at the cheeks with the Hollywoodian.

Since you want to create the illusion of a long and leaner jawline, growing out your beard near the chin and keeping the sides close shaven will create that effect.



Accentuate the jawline and sharp angles of your face with whiskers tapering down to a balbo – a combination of a goatee and a handlebar moustache.

This being the most desirable face type, gives you the luxury of experimenting. Be the envy of all men as you pull off the much-coveted 5 o'clock shadow.

ILLUSTRATIONS: SACHIN RUHIL

Keep That Wine Fine

YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT NEW wine cooling unit to be installed, but is your wine cellar ready for it? Being extremely delicate, wine needs to be fiercely protected from humidity and sudden fluctuations in temperature. For optimisation of the wine cooling system, get your neglected wine cellar in order.

FUNCTIONALITY

Treat your wine cellar like the treasure trove it is – efficiency over aesthetics. If it is required of a wine cellar to look like an executioner's chamber, so be it! Dark and cool is the way to go. Proper ventilation is needed, but minimise the presence of natural light because ultraviolet radiation is wine's worst enemy. An optimum ageing temperature of 55° and a relative humidity of 60-70% is ideal.

CONTROL HUMIDITY

Cover the interior walls with R-11 minimum insulation and the exterior walls with R-19 minimum insulation. On the warm side of the walls, install vapour barriers made of polyethylene plastic to act as a barrier between the wall and the condensation that gathers because of the wine cooling unit. If the wine cellar has concrete flooring, create another vapour barrier with concrete sealant.

TEMPERATURE DISPLAY

When buying your wine cooling system, invest in a temperature display. It may seem unnecessary at the time, but goes a long way in keeping your wine in prime condition. Located just outside the wine cellar, the temperature display sends a signal to the wine cooling system when the temperature falls outside the desired range for wine storage and prompts a readjustment in temperature. It also consistently relays accurate temperature and monitors humidity, cutting down on the possibility of dry corks.

KEEP IT AIRY

A well-ventilated wine cellar prevents the wine from incorporating unpleasant smells and debris that can seep in through the cork.

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speed dates

14-25 May

FESTIVAL DE CANNES, CANNES, FRANCE

The mecca of international cinema, Festival de Cannes is where every true movie lover heads each year. With premieres and screenings of films across various categories, languages and countries, this 12-day event is nothing short of spectacular. You can also find some of the world's most popular stars descend on the Cannes red carpet dressed in their designer best. For more on the perfect place to be for both films and fashion, visit festival-cannes.com

15-18 May

ART BASEL, HONG KONG, CHINA

From emerging talents to modern masters, Art Basel will trace 12 decades of art history across six different sectors. Over 2,000 artists from various places globally are in the list of participants, and art lovers can expect interesting

discussions and presentations along with some truly stunning art pieces. Visit artbasel.com.

16-18 May

CONCORSO D'ELEGANZA VILLA D'EST, ITALY

An annual affair since 1929, Concorso D'Eleganza Villa D'Est is a three-day showcase of vintage motor cars that boasts of stunning designs and inspiring lineage. This year, the show will include 50 cars built between the 20s and 70s across various categories. Visit concorsodeleganzavillaest.com.

17-20 May

INTL CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE FAIR, USA

If you plan to redo your house, checking out the International Contemporary Furniture Fair would be the way to go! This four-day fair promises to showcase the latest trends in furniture design, along with various brands and designs presenting their work. For more, visit icff.com.

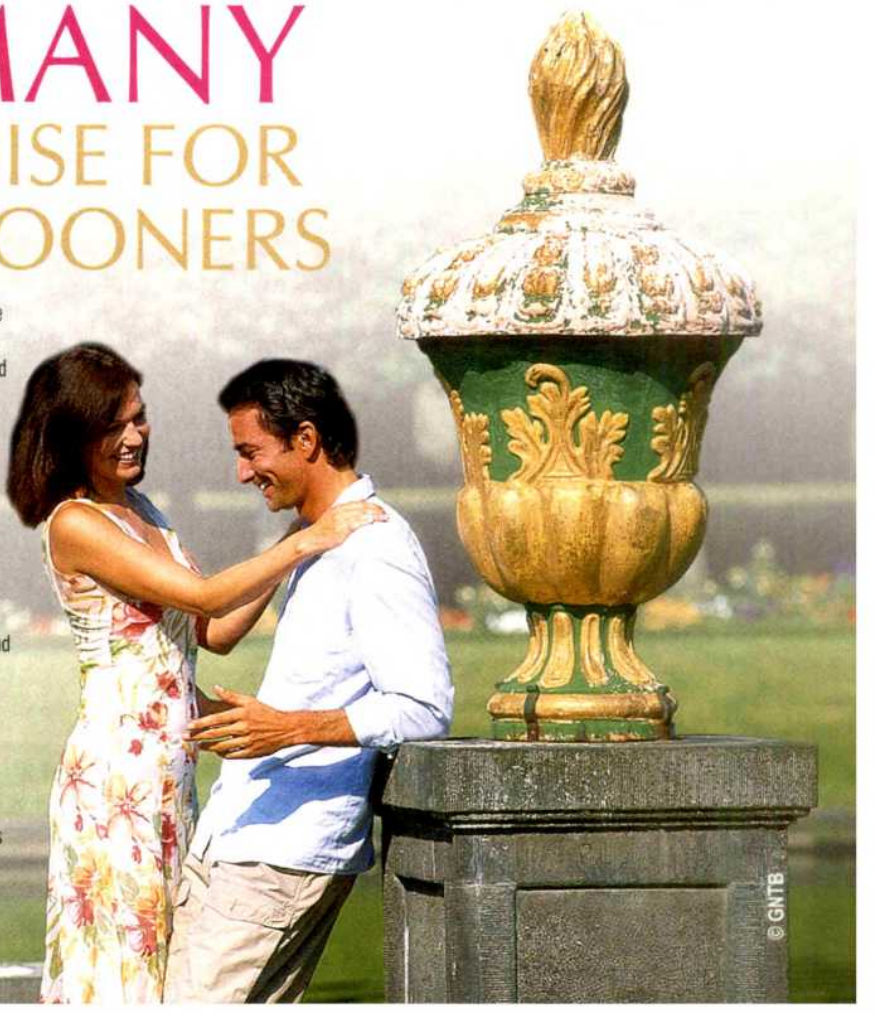
CANADA OFFERS TRAVELLERS WORLD-CLASS GOLF COURSES AND WILDLY BEAUTIFUL SCENERY

Canada boasts some gorgeous golf courses. In fact, the scenery may be so distracting you'll have trouble focusing on that little white ball. Here are some of our most talked about courses.

- If ever there was a golfing Garden of Eden, it must be The Harvest Golf Club overlooking Kelowna's Okanagan Lake. Scattered along the impeccably manicured fairways are dozens of mature fruit trees. Pick an apple—it's not forbidden fruit here—and munch while you play.
- One of Canada's best courses belongs to Fairmont Hotels & Resorts. The Canada's master golf course architect, Stanley Thompson, designed the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge Golf Course in 1924. Wildly beautiful, you might see elk, caribou and even bears on this historic 18-hole course in the Canadian Rockies.
- Clear Lake Golf Course in Riding Mountain National Park, MB, overlooks a popular boating and fishing lake. With four-fifths of the shoreline undeveloped, it feels like you're golfing in the heart of nature.
- In Ontario's cottage country, Muskoka Bay Club offers a championship golf course designed by acclaimed architect Doug Carrick. Wetlands, beaver ponds, and rocky outcroppings add up to a fun course in an unforgettable landscape.
- The long-awaited Cabot Links on Cape Breton, NS, is Canada's only true links course, with the requisite sand dunes, wild grasses and beaches. Lose yourself in a stunning landscape that awakens all your senses.

GERMANY
A PARADISE FOR HONEYMOONERS

Germany offers romantic destinations to suit all tastes – the perfect choice if you're planning a dream honeymoon or a holiday for two. Musicals, theatre, concerts, exhibitions and the fantastic nightlife give you plenty of opportunity to enjoy quality time as a couple. Begin your new life together in surroundings fit for a king in one of the Sightsleeping Hotels in Bavaria. Thirty-four hotels from medieval Rabenstein Castle, which overlooks a valley on a mountain plateau, to Pommersfelden Palace in all its 18th century splendour, have teamed up under this banner. Wake up together in a historical palace, and then go for a post-breakfast stroll in the surrounding park. Grace and grandeur can also be found in Saxony, and particularly in Dresden. A suitably spectacular hotel is easily found in this baroque city and you can time your visit to coincide with the Semper Opera Ball in one of the world's most famous opera houses. Even sightseeing in Dresden has a touch of romance about it. Cities such as Freiburg, Trier and Münster, you can experience a wonderful blend of tradition and modernity". Experience the Romantic Road whisks away on a journey of approximately 400km from Würzburg to Füssen in the Allgäu. This 'grandfather' of Germany's scenic routes – now more than 60 years old – is a highlight that attracts visitors from all over the world.



ADVANTAGE INDIA

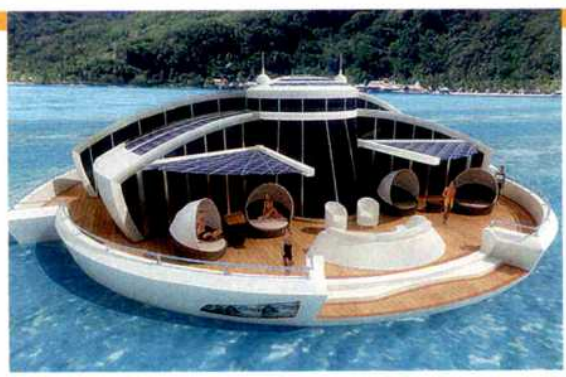
Forget overhyped Grace Bay! Why bother going abroad when TripAdvisor thinks so highly of India as a beach destination?

Radhanagar beach has been adjudged as India's best beach ▲

STOP EYEING FOREIGN SHORES, because India's Radhanagar beach is as good a bet if a hearty sun-soaking time is all you desire this summer. The beach, located in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has been cited by TripAdvisor as the top Indian shore to hang out for a healthy tan in 2014, trumping Goa's much-celebrated Agonda. In fact, as many as 25 beaches from India were among the winners of TripAdvisor's Travelers' Choice Awards for Beaches, featuring 322 contenders from various regions across the globe — including Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, South America, the South-Pacific and the United States. In Asia, India ranks second after Thailand as the country with the most number of winning beaches. Goa lovers, however, needn't lose heart; the state retained the title of India's 'beach capital', with as many as 15 award-winning shores. Odisha made its debut on the list with Puri Beach taking the eighth spot.

BOOK TICKETS VIA FACEBOOK

Are you a Facebook freak? If yes, here's how you can book your next ticket abroad without even opening a separate browser tab. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has announced a new service that allows customers to do everything from making seat reservations to requesting excess baggage tags and paying the requisite fee through their Twitter and Facebook accounts. Post-payment, customers will be sent a private message on the social networking site, after which they can select the mode of payment and complete the transaction. A confirmation of payment is then sent across by one of its 130 social media service agents. Recently, KLM had gained its five millionth Facebook fan, making it the carrier with the most fans across the world. Yes, we like!



WILL LUXURY FLOAT IN MALDIVES?

Maldives may be Prince William and Duchess Catherine's destination of choice, but that needn't necessarily earn it a free pass from nature's fury. With over 80 per cent of its islands less than four feet above sea level, plans are being put in place to safeguard the country's booming tourism industry from any unexpected disaster. Italian designer Michele Puzzolante of MPD Designs has already proposed the development of $145-million solar-powered floating villas that would serve as holiday accommodation, complete with conference halls, dining spaces and a marina, among other facilities. Tourism of the future, indeed!

PUNCTUALITY, THY NAME IS JAPAN AIR

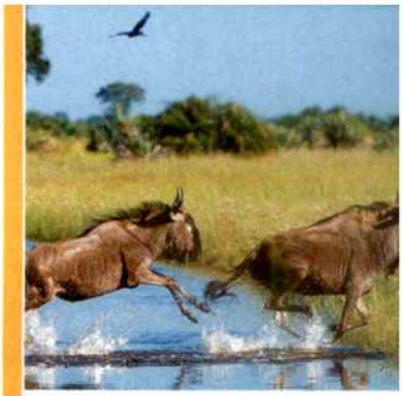
Wondering which airline is your best bet for that impromptu conference on the other side of the globe tomorrow morning? This study, conducted by Flightstats.com, may have some answers for you. After collecting real-time flight status information on the world's top 200 airline carriers, the flight monitoring portal came up with a reliability ranking that put Japan Airlines right on top – with a 93% on-time departure rate and 89% on-time arrival rate. The others on the list were KLM, All-Nippon Airways, Iberia, SAS and Saudi Arabian Airlines.

VIENNA, THE EXPAT'S BEST BET

If business requires you to temporarily relocate to any global city of your choice, insist on Vienna. The Austrian capital has emerged as the city with the highest quality of living in a study that looked at indicators ranging from political stability to social and economic environments, housing and public transportation. According to Mercer's annual Quality of Living report, the Austrian capital boasts of the best living conditions

According to Mercer, the Austrian capital boasts of the best living conditions for expats ▲

in the world for expats. Vienna outranked 223 cities, and is followed by Zurich, Auckland, Munich and Vancouver. While European cities dominated, several Asian urban hotspots such as Tokyo, Kobe, Yokohama and Osaka also found a worthy mention. But the writing's on the wall — you better hurry because Vienna waits for you.



CALL OF THE WILDERNESS

If you would like to go on an African safari that does not involve staring listlessly at animals from the confines of a crowded luxury jet, here's news. Luxury travel company Travcoa has come up with a 20-day, 5,600-mile journey through Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and SA to mark its 60th anniversary. Not hopping with excitement yet? Try this – a select group of 18 guests will travel through the wilderness on a low-level flight-seeing DC-3 airplane that's capable of landing in the most remote of regions. Travcoa promises a rip-roaring adventure featuring guest appearances by the country's big five, comprising lions, African elephants, cape buffalos, leopards and rhinoceroses.

APP CORNER

XE Currency

Free (Android/iOS/Windows)
By XE.com

Convert more than 180 currencies on your smartphone and tablet – Android, iPhone or Windows – with the world's most downloaded foreign exchange app, XE Currency. It features up-to-the-minute exchange rates, historical charts, and stores the last updated rates, so it can even work offline. Available for free across various marketplaces.

Blow off some Steam

Face it, today's corporate office isn't the most ideal place to remain Mr Cool. Follow these five simple steps to avoid going up in an embarrassing blaze of fury on really bad days

Exercising restraint is the best way to handle anger as well as its resultant repercussions ▲

Count away

Believe it or not, Thomas Jefferson's suggestion that you count till 10 before responding is still your best bet out of a potentially volatile situation. While you are likely to do and say regrettable things when aroused, counting slowly to whatever number seems appropriate gives your blood pressure and heart rate a chance to return to normal. Very angry? Count till 100.

Distraction helps

If counting didn't work wonders, another way to tone down your anger is to distract yourself. Boss yelling down the walls of his cubicle on you? Take a walk to the cafeteria for a sandwich and the latest copy of Sports Illustrated.

Breathe deep

While this one happens quite involuntarily if you are making an effort to calm yourself down, it helps to make a conscious effort too. According to doctors, slow and deep breaths from the diaphragm — unlike shallow ones from the chest — slow the heart rate, reducing chances of an outburst of fury.

Pick a pen

If every instinct in you recommends clubbing the colleague with a chair, exercise restraint until you can find a pen and jot your feelings down on a piece of paper. Writing or journaling allows you to slow down and contemplate how to respond, instead of reacting destructively.

Don't email

If the object of your anger is an email or text message, do not respond before you have calmed down. If you are really burning to say something, write out the response and keep it in your draft box for a while before deciding to send it. This will give you time to devise a sane and rational response to the situation.

The ABCs of Yoga

Don't know ashtanga from vinyasa? Take baby steps into the world of yoga with these beginner-level asanas

Mountain Pose

Also known as tadasana, this pose improves posture, mental clarity and breathing capability. Stand with feet hip-width apart and weight evenly spread out – keeping your arms at your sides. Slowly lift them to the sky.

Downward-facing Dog

Adho mukha svanasana encourages full-body circulation. Get on all fours with hands and knees apart. Walk your hands forward and spread your fingers. Press your hips upward, so your body looks like an inverted V.

Tree Pose

Vriksasana improves your balance, and strengthens your limbs and spine. Take the mountain pose, then shift your weight onto the left leg. Balance yourself with your right sole in your left thigh. Take a prayer position.

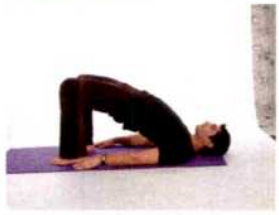
Upward-facing Dog

Urdhva mukha svanasana strengthens the spine, arms and wrists. Life face-down on the floor, legs extended. Tuck your hips downward as you squeeze your glutes. Keeping your palms down, lift your chest off the ground. Repeat.

Warrior Pose

Virabhadrasana strengthens your legs and ankles. Stand with your legs apart, and turn out your right foot 90 degrees. Extend your arms to the sides, and lunge into your right knee. Focus over your hand; switch sides.

Bridge Pose



Setubandhasana strengthens your chest, neck and spine. Lie on the floor with arms at your sides. With knees bent, press your feet downwards as your lift your hips until they are parallel to the floor. Bring your chest to your chin.

Garmin Vivofit

WHILE THERE HAS BEEN A VERITABLE DELUGE OF fitness bands in recent times, the Vivofit fitness tracker from navigation-guru Garmin successfully manages to steal a few lux of spotlight from the Fitbits and Fuelbands. Sturdy and waterproof to 50 metres, the Vivofit comes with removable batteries that do not have to be changed for at least a year. Okay, it's odd that a Garmin device shouldn't have GPS, but it does a good job of tracking your activities anyway. Get a band!

Price: ₹10,500

Get Appy!

If good health is what you care about, look no further than your Android phone. Presenting the top health apps in Google Play.

Endomondo Sports Tracker

Endomondo keeps track of your distance and time whether you are running, walking or cycling. You can compete against friends and strangers, even as an audio coach keeps you motivated through it all.

Price: ₹275

Zombies, Run!

Urging your feet to run is easier when there are zombie hordes pursuing you. The tracks in this app send you on various missions, even as audio cues tell you when the undead are on your tail, making you go faster.

Price: ₹240

Noom Weight Loss Coach

Noom Weight Loss Coach helps you log foods to track your calorie intake and record progress on workouts as well as weight loss. It also features a pedometer that tracks how much you walk, run or simply lounge around.

Price: Free

MAKE IT A ROUND TRIP

This one's not for the faint-hearted. Sit astride your bike and explore the grittier side of nature on languid afternoons and sun-drenched mornings.

TEXT BY ANINDITA SATPATHI

JUDDERING DOWN A STEEP INCLINE, THE foliage rushing past you at an all-too-uncomfortable pace, you wonder — a little belatedly — if it was a wise decision to indulge your persistent affinity for adventure with an intrepid cycling trip. You careen round a corner, catch a glimpse of a startled family of hedgehogs, barely manage to keep your precarious two-wheeled balance and land bumpily, yet with magnificent precision, on the road. The realisation that the sound of applause ringing in your ears is a figment of your imagination hardly dampens your spirits, because you're in the mood to pedal to glory. If roughing it out in the pristine wild with your trusty mountain bike sounds like the stuff of your dreams, we have just the thing for you.

A wholesome dose of the odd charm of bumping, rolling, swerving and sliding on two wheels beats any paltry adrenaline rush. Here's our pick of the world's best cycling trails with a ringside view of earthy beauty, and a list of bikes you should invest in. So, strap on that water bottle holder, get your knees and elbows padded and start pedalling!

Navigating the mud and scree-laden roads winding between lochs and the sea is a rare pleasure

ISLE OF SKYE (SCOTLAND)

No grandiose terms can do justice to the sheer natural aura of this craggy edge of Scotland. If a ride in solitude through gruff yet gorgeous scenery is what you're looking for, you can safely end your search here.

Myths and history mingle with the buffeting winds sighing through the pinnacles of the Trotternish peninsula, the northernmost spur of Skye. The view encompasses fields, marshes and scree stretching for miles around, till the sweep gets fetchingly arrested by the Old Man of Storr, a jutting basalt spire famously featured in the 2012 blockbuster – *Prometheus*. Follow the route to the stately ruins of the Duntulm Castle – poised on the edge of the cliff; the crumbling remains have a haunting beauty that lingers.

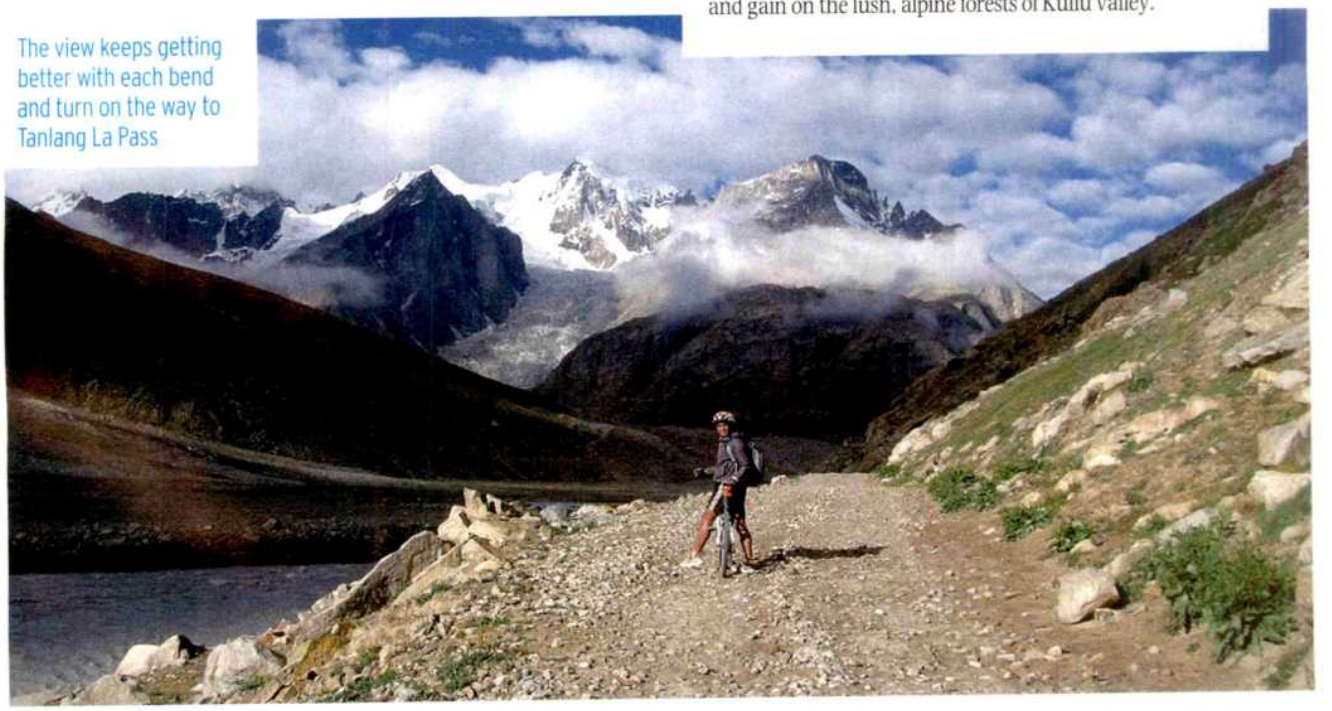
Tired of battling the moors and bracken? Head to the gentler slopes of the Waternish peninsula, an exquisitely picturesque hub of art and culture, and pick up genuine sheepskin clothing. Ride southwards against the wind, spend a leisurely day at Dunvegan and follow it up with a trip to The Three Chimneys – the island's premier gastronomic, multi-award winning restaurant. On your way back, stop by the luxuriously secluded Neist Point, and if you're lucky, you'll spot whales, dolphins, porpoises and basking sharks.

LEH (JAMMU AND KASHMIR)

The melancholic spirit of the mountains in Leh broods over you, guiding the bike through hairpin bends and gently nudging you into landscapes of undiluted, rugged beauty. The stark appeal of the primarily uphill ride to Tanglang La Pass is a brutal, grudging delight.

At an altitude of 5,359 metres, the Pass holds the honour of being the second-highest motorable road in the world. Isolated villages clinging to the facade of the mountains give way to sheer rock faces jutting into a bright blue sky as you cross Lahaul valley. Follow the gurgling Bhaga River to the village of Darcha, one of the highest summer pastures in the world. Grab steaming cups of tea from small shacks along the way as you ride the pebbled roads winding through the gorges of Zanskar Range to Brandy Nala and Lingti plains.

The quirky nomenclature of Brandy Nala suits it — a chilly stream overladen with rocks running through the bowl-shaped valley. The gruelling ride up Rohtang Pass is softened by the spectacular view it affords — a poignant imagery of contrast — as you leave behind the barren beauty of Ladakh and gain on the lush, alpine forests of Kullu valley.



The view keeps getting better with each bend and turn on the way to Tanlang La Pass

BEST IN BIKING GEAR

- The Giro Xar helmet, made for aggressive trail riding, has a patented visor, and 17 wind tunnel vents with airflow channels.
- Lightweight with padding, the Castelli Aero Race 2 gloves keep your hands warm and reduce air resistance.
- Your legs will thank you for the Fox Launch Pro Knee Pad. Equipped with a silicone gripper, it is a must-have for cyclists.
- The Men's Octane Tri Suit from Pearl Izumi is an aerodynamic marvel with welded hem, sleeves and a quick-dry chamois.
- The Bergamont Vitox 7.2 is a snazzy mountain bike that takes on hilly roads with a vengeance and renders a smooth ride.

CYCLING CLUBS

Pedal Yatri
This group of avid cycling enthusiasts based in Gurgaon leaves no stone unturned when it comes to discovering new trails

Bangalore Cycling Club
Got a nose for adventure and a yearning to hit the road on a pair of wheels? Enroll now!

Hyderabad Cycling Club
These nature lovers have been trying to popularise the 'Bike to Work' concept

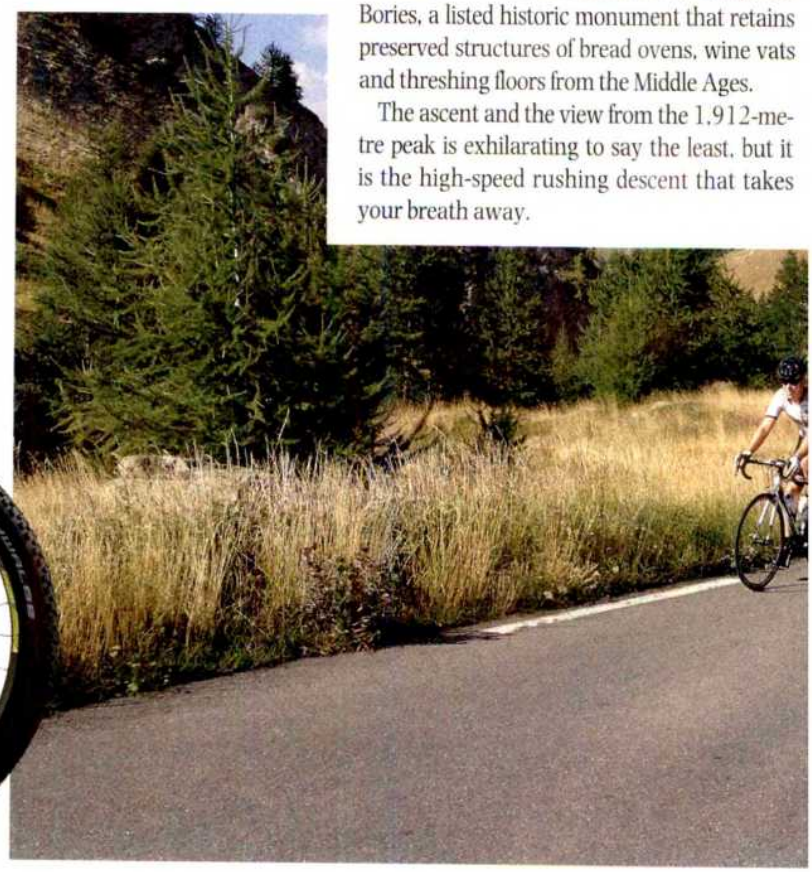
LUBERON (FRANCE)

Remember the scene from Vicky Christina Barcelona where Javier Bardem goes cycling through the picturesque Barcelona countryside with Scarlett Johansson and Penelope Cruz? Okay, that was a red herring of sorts, but now that we have your full and undivided attention, may we suggest Luberon in Provence, France, for a similar experience?

Pedal down shady roads cutting across vibrant yellow meadows, meticulously laid out vineyards, fields of lavender and villages touted to be the most beautiful in France. For those with an adventurous bent of mind, the 21-km climb to Mont Ventoux is an extremely fulfilling six-day cycling trip. Sample local wines, tuck into hearty French meals, stop by the villages of Gordes, Lourmarin, Roussillon and Village des Bories, a listed historic monument that retains preserved structures of bread ovens, wine vats and threshing floors from the Middle Ages.

The ascent and the view from the 1,912-metre peak is exhilarating to say the least, but it is the high-speed rushing descent that takes your breath away.

Bustling with fellow bikers armed with a smile and a helping hand, the road to Mont Ventoux is paved with good intentions



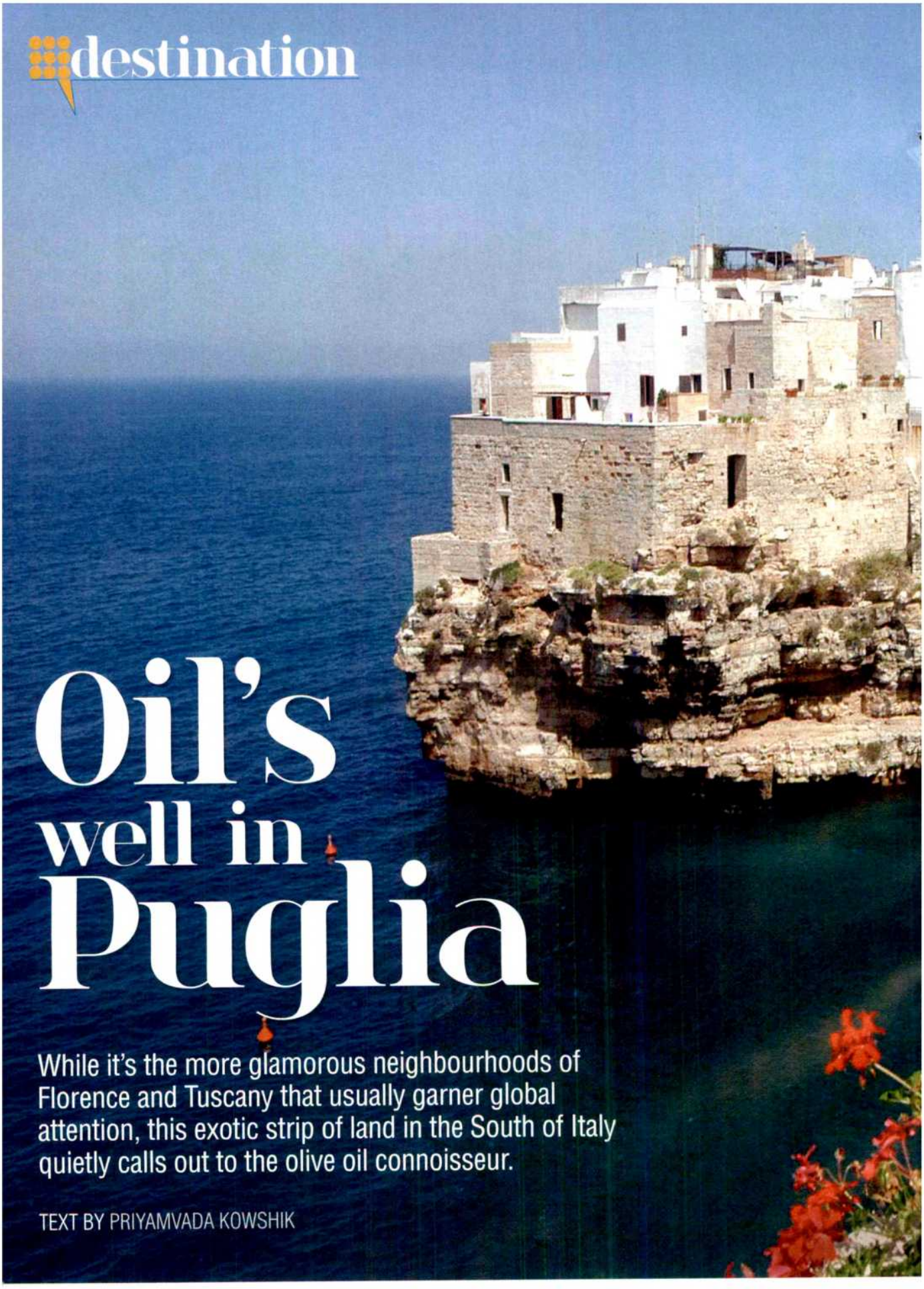
In Munnar, cloudy skies are not threatening and a drizzle only adds to the thrill of the ride

MUNNAR (KERALA)

The lush tea town of Munnar oozes a charm that spills onto the surrounding slopes and seeps into the adjacent hills, dousing them in a hue of the brightest moss green. The outline of mountains coyly draped in mist and verdant swathes of undulating tea plantations against the grey-blue sky can stop you mid-pedal.

If your companion has been struck by that first wave of awe, try not to run headlong into him and spoil the moment. The road leading from Udumalaipettai (in Tamil Nadu) to Munnar has been unanimously voted as one of the best stretches to cycle through. Traipse through the scrub forests spanning the Chinnar National Park and keep your fingers crossed if you're keen on spotting an elephant or two. Soon, you will find the sandalwood forests of Marayoor giving way to craggy outcrops punctuated by gurgling waterfalls.

Devote the next day to leisurely rides around Munnar and Anamudi Shola, a protected national park with springs, giant rocks and deserted roads where all you hear is the sound of pebbles crumbling under your MTB wheels.



Oil's well in Puglia

While it's the more glamorous neighbourhoods of Florence and Tuscany that usually garner global attention, this exotic strip of land in the South of Italy quietly calls out to the olive oil connoisseur.

TEXT BY PRIYAMVADA KOWSHIK

A strip of land surrounded by the sea on nearly all sides, Puglia (or Apulia) is a nature enthusiast's dream come true.

CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY CENTRAL LIBRARY

AS WE GET READY TO TOUCH down on the tiny airstrip of Bari on a cold November evening, I watch the city sprawled below like a luminescent lotus leaf floating on a dark sea. We're on an olive oil trail in Puglia, lodged discreetly in the very "heel" of Italy's boot.

During the one-hour ride to our hotel in the nearby town of Brindisi, old trees cast strange shadows along the dark stretch as we eagerly look around for olive groves. But we would soon learn that the vegetation in the countryside comprises little other than olive trees—gnarled giants that have stood here for hundreds of years, some for millennia, watching whole empires and provinces being built and razed. Far and in between, you find neat patches of bright green spinach and flush-red tomatoes, their lush colours and youthfulness a stark departure from the tortured venerability of the olive trees.

To the casual visitor, Puglia is associated with the exquisite beaches along the Adriatic Sea. Its sunny weather and tourist centres like the beautiful Baroque town of Lecce and Trullis of Alberobello are especially popular among domestic travellers. But as our local guide Luciano tells us, olive cultivation drives Puglia's economy. Over 40 per cent of Italy's mass consumed olive oil originates from this region. Some estimates put the figure at over 60 million olive trees, 240,000 farms and over a thousand crushing plants that operate in the sector — making Puglia the top regional producer of olive oil in Italy.

It's not just quantity but also the high quality of oil and fresh vegetables — tomatoes, aubergines, zucchini and greens are considered tastier due to the region's proximity to the sea — that make Puglia an epicurean delight. At restaurants in its urban centres of Monopoli and Corato, we munch on the favourite local appetiser, the season's freshly harvested black and green olives lightly fried in olive oil. The pungency of the oil offsets the fresh bitterness of the olives. Fresh fish and

robust vegetables make its cuisine one of the best in Italy, though it lacks the global recall that Florentine and Tuscan cuisines command.

Olives form the very cultural soul of Puglia. Growing slowly into solid, monumental and generous trees, they create a strong link between entire generations. The ones growing in Puglia's red, rocky, water-deprived soil may be of shorter stature than those in the lush northern regions, but the olive oil produced here is considered to be the most palatable in the world – and known for its high vitamin content. At Pantaleo Agricoltura, a particularly lush green organic olive grove, younger plants share space with trees that are a few hundred years old. The 4,000 organically maintained trees here produce about 25 tonnes of premium extra virgin olive oil. A good thing too, considering the rising demand for the product in Europe, USA and even Japan.

Eager to acquaint myself with the delicate art of making the fruity pungent extra virgin olive oil, I ask senior journalist, writer and olive oil "oleologo" Luigi Caricato about the processes and parameters that go into identifying good oil. He says the complexity of the olive oil's flavours depends on the stage of maturity, time of harvest and swiftness with which it is crushed upon harvesting—the fruit should go into the crusher within 12 to 24 hours of being harvested. Underlining the fact that mature olives produce undesirable sweet oil, Caricato says, "Squeezing should happen when they haven't fully matured, the batch must have fruits of all colours and shades."

The kind of olives is also of prime importance — Italy grows 77 per cent of the 700 varieties found across the world.

We are at the Pantaleo Refinery in Fasano, where India's top selling olive oil — Leonardo — is bottled. Here, extra virgin olive oil, refined olive oil and olive pomace oil is bottled and shipped to India. Their oils, infused with herbs and Mediterranean spices, are also being imported by Dalmia Continental.

Olive oil is serious business, not just as an economic driver, but as the subject of academic study. For connoisseurs like

Puglia's monumental trees create a strong link between entire generations ▼

OLIVE TRAILS

Puglia has four Strade dell'olio or olive oil routes – Castel del Monte, Terre d'Ulivi, Bitonto, Collina di Brindisi, and Daunia. Originating from the port town of Brindisi, the 140-kilometre stretch of roads provides you with a chance to taste and purchase the local oils. Restaurants serve a taste of Puglia's riches. These routes connect to old mills surrounded by mammoth olive trees that are probably as old as time itself, and some out-of-use farms that have been converted into museums. These routes are also being tied to Italy's enogastronomy tours—food and wine trails—which focus on small inland villages, so tourists can experience and rediscover the natural resources and local traditions. When here, seek the Regione Puglia-recognised signposted routes that protect the quality and history of the region's assets – the green and purple fruits that no gourmand or fitness enthusiast in the world can do without. Olives.

The fruit should go into the crusher within 24 hours of being harvested ▲

Caricato, it is a passion. Picking up freshly pressed oil, he sniffs and rolls it on his tongue to release the intense notes, before disclosing the quality, origin of the olives and the oil. For the farmers and personnel of crushing units spread across every little town in Puglia, it is knowledge that has been passed down generations.

Here, adherence to strict parameters ensures good yield as well as high quality produce. At the Oleificio Cooperative in Ostuni, a historic town marked by splendid architecture, farmers bring fresh harvest that is promptly loaded into the two crushing units—one for olives that have been plucked from the trees and the other for those picked off the ground. "The acidity of olives that hit the ground changes fast, and they don't make the best oil," Caricato says later. The author of several books on the subject, he explains why it is important to transfer the knowledge of choosing the right oil for the right purpose to the consumer – something that VN Dalmia, chairman of Dalmia Continental Pvt Ltd, has been trying to do in India for the last decade. "Ever since we launched Leonardo Olive Oil in 2003, a large part of our work has revolved around increasing awareness on the different varieties of olive oil, and how it can be used in Indian cooking," he says.

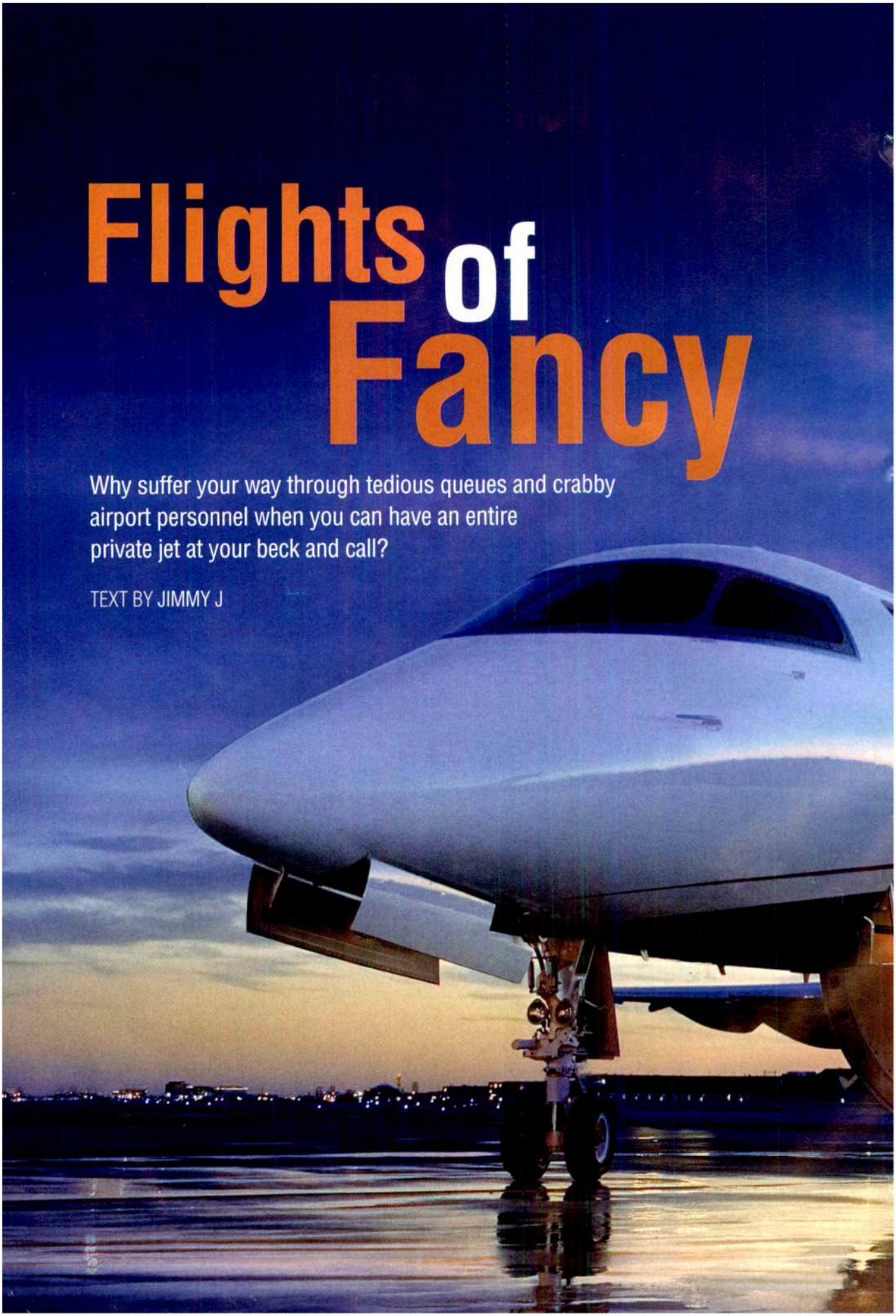
In the last 10 years, Leonardo's business has grown by 66 per cent. As much as 56 per cent of its sales are from pomace oil, while the extra virgin segment has remained constant at 17 per cent.

Unlike pomace, extra virgin olive oil is unprocessed – providing the benefits of anti-oxidants, vitamins A, B, E and K, and healthy fats. With 220 molecules affecting its taste, pungency and colour, it grows on you quickly, like it did on me, as I travelled along Puglia, dipping freshly baked breads into every variety of extra virgin I could lay my hands on. Sometimes it's grassy, sometimes it smells of tomatoes, sometimes artichokes. Once, the pungent oil gently scalded my throat, but I was told that it was just the polyphenols at work. My love affair with olive oil had only just begun.

Flights of Fancy

Why suffer your way through tedious queues and crabby airport personnel when you can have an entire private jet at your beck and call?

TEXT BY JIMMY J



TWO MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT, THE PHONE RINGS. YOU have to attend a conference in Kochi at nine tomorrow morning, says a crusty voice that you recognise as the company CEO's, making you throw the covers aside in panic. And, with good reason too. The next five hours are spent in utter desperation, and your secretary drowsily grumbles under her breath as you instruct her to book the earliest flight out of town. As it turns out, the first three are fully booked, and an economy seat in the fourth costs a little more than a bomb.

At 6 am, you find yourself in a serpentine queue, waiting for the CISF personnel to push you towards the boarding gate. But even when seated in the plane, you know the journey is far from over. You touch down at the port city around eight thirty, bleary and bedraggled, only to face the realisation that the city is located thirty kilometres from the airport. Oh, well. Time to rent a car.

It takes two hours of weaving through the traffic before you finally reach the venue, but it's eleven now, and the conference hall door is shut tight. The receptionist asks if she can help you with anything, and — with bloodshot eyes and frazzled hair — you reply in the positive. A tall glass of whisky, and a dark corner where you can curl up and die.

Maybe it's time you gave private flying a thought.

TIME AND PLACE

Ask Rajeev Wadhwa, CEO & chairman of Baron Luxury & Lifestyles, and he will tell you that the biggest advantage of private flying is the headstart you get on the clock. Speaking on the Baron Eagle Membership, which offers premium air transporta-

Unlike commercial flights, chartered aircraft operate on flexible timings and can be booked at a short notice

tion to those living in the fast lane, he says, "Once enrolled, you can have an aircraft ready for transport almost instantly. Also, unlike the case with commercial flights, you don't have to arrive hours in advance to go through security — a few minutes prior to departure should do. Flat tyre en route to the airport? Make the plane wait for you!"

While the idea of private flying is yet to completely catch the imagination of the Indian elite, an increasing number of people — especially those constantly on the move — are starting to realise the advantages of having a private aircraft at your beck and call. Consequently, the country has seen the mushrooming of quite a few air charter companies, including Air Limousines, Tata's TajAir, Air Charters India and VistaJet.

Convenience is yet another aspect that draws the discerning businessman to the private jet. "These days, due to space constraints and other reasons, airports catering to commercial flights seem to be moving away from cities. But as there are more than 150 airports catering to private aircraft in India (compared to 70 for commercial ones), private fliers can actually land closer to their destination — thereby reducing ground transportation time," says Wadhwa. A case in point is Bangalore, where private aircraft users can touch down at the HAL airport — located in the hub of the city and probably a twenty-minute drive from anyplace important — as opposed to the distant Bengaluru International Airport.

Nevertheless, Sheena De Boisgelin, country head (India), VistaJet Holdings, bemoans the comparative lack of supporting infrastructure for business aviation in the country. "There are just about 450 airstrips in India, of which only a fraction

Travelling in a chartered flight can be a glorious experience in customised luxury

The do's and the don'ts of chartering

While chartered flights promise a hassle-free journey, here are some tips to zero in on just the service you may need

- Flights can be chartered at the 11th hour, but it's recommended that you book early to secure the best aircraft available, at a good bargain.
- Select the plane size needed, in accordance with the number of people in your party. While small to medium-sized planes hold anywhere from one to 16 passengers, some air charter companies offer planes that carry up to 150 passengers.
- As far as possible, try to book a round-trip to ensure full value for money. If you choose one-way, you may be charged for an 'empty leg' flight – which basically means a trip with no passengers or cargo.
- Identify the airport closest to your destination, and then check with the air charter company if it uses the one you want.
- As much as the air charter company may swear on its staff's expertise, it may help to check the aircraft's safety records and its pilot's experience. This way, you won't suffer panic attacks half-way through the flight.
- If you wish to cancel your flight, do so at least 48 hours before your scheduled departure to ensure that you do not suffer financially.

Choppers can be a good bet if you are planning an aerial jungle safari or a trip to an exotic mountain peak

are fully operational. Also, the very concept of fixed base operators (private aviation terminals) is emerging in the country only now."

LUGGAGE CONCERNS

Still, private flying has more than its set of advantages to compensate. For instance, every traveller has come across a situation where the commercial airline he's travelling in either pronounced his luggage too heavy to transport under normal circumstances, or mistakenly sent it across to another destination. The private jet flier, however, is beyond such concerns; there is no restriction on what he brings into the aircraft cabin, whether it's equipment, sports gear or product samples, making it ideal for everybody from celebrities to musicians travelling across the globe. And what's more, as the luggage stays with him, there's no question of absent-minded ground staffers sending it to the wrong destination.

PRIVACY & PRODUCTIVITY

Increased productivity is yet another advantage that air charter companies offer to their customers. While the very fact that members can arrive mere minutes prior to the flight's departure translates into better time management, the hours spent flying can be used to discuss business matters in utmost privacy. "Our aircraft, which are equipped with WiFi, Satcom, fax and conference facilities, provide clients with a proper work environment onboard," says Wadhwa. "For people who consider time as valuable as money, a lot by way of business deals can be accomplished in the aircraft itself." Besides, a journey through the clouds in a private jet is an experience in customised luxury — with ample space, luxurious furnishings and individualised attention.

BESPOKE TRAVEL

When it comes to air charter companies, one size certainly does not fit all. The customer gets to choose from an array of aircraft, ranging from helicopters and single-engine planes to mid-size carriers and luxury executive jets, each customised for just the kind of travel experience he may seek. Want to reach London in nine hours flat to clinch the biggest deal in the history of your firm? Pick a luxury jet that will speed you through the skies, non-stop. Planning a jungle safari by air with family and friends? Pick a chopper to zero in on those elusive rhino herds; you could even land in a clearing to take a closer look.

"There are a few things that should be kept in mind while picking a private jet,"says De Boisgelin, "First, the cabin size — because that will depend on the number of people travelling; second, safety and comfort levels; third, speed and flying range — depending on whether it's a long-haul or short-haul flight; and most importantly, the facilities aboard the aircraft."

Leather Luxe

This is your chance to stake claim to the classic! The Eames Lounge & Ottaman has come to India as part of a limited edition collection available exclusively at the Herman Miller store. Made of high-quality leather, this is luxury furniture at its glamourous best!

Price: On request

Feeling Blue?

London writing instrument brand Lapis Bard has come out with a new pen in the perfect shade of midnight blue. Available exclusively at William Penn stores, this piece is sure to make writing an experience in utter luxury.

Price: On request

Made For You

The interiors of a house speak volumes on the person living therein. And if the designs are anything like this cupboard from Nivasa, you are making a fabulous impression indeed! From bespoke services to beautiful decorative pieces, the furniture store has something for everyone.

Price: On request

Eye for an Eye

Now that summer's here, it is time to get yourself a pair of eye-catching sunglasses! This piece from Dolce and Gabbana, complete with an animal print undertone, is the one you should set your eyes on — quite literally!

Price: On request

Side Business

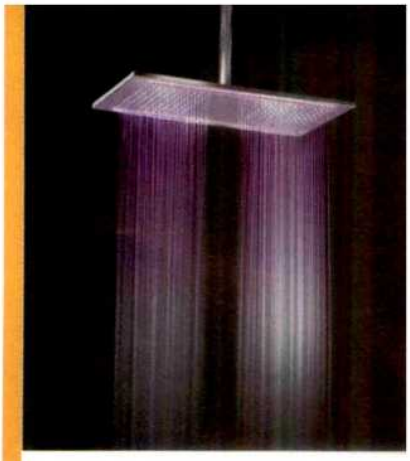
No bedroom is complete without a bedside table. So, if you like your bed luxurious, it will need a bedside table that matches it well too! This exquisite piece from Italian luxury furniture brand Visionnaire can be that very perfectly sophisticated addition to your bedroom.

Price: On request

Go Indian!

You don't have international fashion brands taking inspiration from India very often. So when Corneliani does it, and does it well, you welcome it with open arms. Its Court Suit collection is simply spectacular, a must-have for those looking to spruce up their closets and up the fashion game.

Price: ₹1 lakh onwards



Colour Splashes

Even showering can be a colourful experience! Newform has come up with a unique Digital Bathing System collection that integrates the shower head with a multi-colour automatic lighting system. Hues and shades can be changed using a remote control, thanks to the in-built chrome therapy that helps you choose the shade you like. Whoever said water is colourless will have to glug down his words now.

Price: ₹2.3 lakh

Shoe Support

Runners, rejoice! Sportswear brand Adidas has introduced the Springblade shoe with 16 individually tuned forward-angled blades, which promise to infuse your feet with some truly explosive energy. Now you know what will help better your running experience!

Price: On request

top shop

A Good Call

Tired of the same ol' droids and apples? The BlackBerry P-9982 extends Porsche Design's range of modern luxury smartphones, featuring a satin-finished frame forged from stainless steel and a handwrapped Crocodile leather back door. Be different, BlackBerry different.

Price: ₹1.45 lakh

Back in Black

Floral will never cease to be chic, and neither will the colour black. Alexander McQueen combines the two to create a shirt that promises to attract every eyeball in the vicinity. Your best bet for a casual evening with friends as well as a formal gathering under a moonlit sky, this shirt is available exclusively at The Collective stores.

Price: On request

Pack Animal

If you are travelling light, do it in style with this work of art in brown leather. A trendy backpack bearing quirks exclusive to Gucci, it comes with a unique lock that ensures that none of your belongings get pinched. The only thing to fret about is — do you have the threads to go with it?

Price: On request

Experience Mount Titlis, for your next business event!

It's not just winter sports enthusiasts who will feel at home here: Mount Titlis, at a height of 3,020 m above sea level, also promises magical ice excursions during the summer season –largely due to the fascination of year round snow and eternal ice on its imposing glacier

On and around Titlis, you get a wide range of suitable locations for all kinds of gatherings and events. The infrastructure is complemented by a broad range of services, events and facilities in the areas of gastronomy, sports, leisure and culture. In short: The entire offer is centrally organised making it easier for you to carry out your next event. Located only a 30 minute drive from Lucerne and a one hour drive from Zurich, Engelberg-Titlis is one of the most significant tourist spots in Central Switzerland.

Did you know that around 80 percent of Switzerland is visible from the summit of the Titlis?

Bring your guests to the top of the world and offer them an unforgettable experience!

For enquiries and information, or to book your next business event,
you can write to mice@titlis.ch

KUONI | PERFECT moments

Kuoni Perfect Moments

For Kuoni, it's been a century of transporting people to the most enchanting locales in the world. Time long enough to know what makes a holiday, perfect. As a forebearer in this industry, it is our privilege to present to you 'Perfect Moments' - a Coffee Table Book with nine different types of luxurious holiday themes that are dedicated to your style & comfort.

So, whether you are looking to travel the unbeaten tracks in Cambodia or Vietnam, cruise on a luxury yacht, try out the ski slopes in Europe, experience the thrill of shark-cage diving, explore palaces and castle or just rejuvenate and relax at world's best Spas. At Kuoni, it is our endeavour to shape this dream with our expertise and make you feel special.

Ensuring the best seats at theatres, opera houses or even one in your favorite airline, your suite arranged to be home away from home, your comfort as you self-drive in any part of the world, just as you envisaged it..... We take care to make these memories last a life time!

Visit www.kuoni.in or email, perfectmoments@in.kuoni.com

One for the Road

Lose those coats and tails, and go full-on desi at Dhaba by Claridges. BY SAURAV BHANOT

ROADSIDE DHABAS HAVE LONG BEEN satiating the appetite of many a traveller, and if that's an experience you have missed out on, Dhaba by Claridges is where you should be heading this very moment! There's a lot to admire here — a real truck, copper utensils, gaudy lights, funny one-liners, and a bar called theka. The décor is unabashedly Indian and the food only takes it to the next level, transporting you to a full-on desi world.

Very rarely does a restaurant manage to make its vegetarian dishes comparable to — or even better — its non-vegetarian fare, and Dhaba by Claridges is a fine example of that. For instance, the starters here seem like they are in a perfect neck-to-neck competition. The veg galouti kebab makes you forget the non-veg one, and the bhune aloo and vada pao are perfect palette setters. But meat lovers can't complain either, with the bun omlette, dhaba murgh roast and tawa mutton hitting all the right notes.

I do wish the dhaba prawns were better, but — looking at the bigger picture — that's just a minor glitch.

Galouti kebab
Brain masala

Meal for two
(alcohol extra)
₹2,000

Second floor,
DLF Place, Saket,
New Delhi- 42

011-41750555

For the main course, the veg vs non-veg battle gets even more delicious (pun intended!). Try the daal dhaba and kanastari baingan bharta, and you'll know just how well these two match the meaty fares. Ravenous meat lovers can savour the tiffin chicken, balti meat and brain masala (don't freak out and just try it!), the only underwhelming recipe being the dhaba chilli chicken.

No meal is ever complete without the drink to complement it, and the theka here is in full flow. Whether it's the somras, toofan or the basanti, the drinks are as quirky in taste as in flavour. And you just cannot leave without trying out the pan mojito! A restaurant worth all the hype it creates, Dhaba by Claridges is a must visit for every true-blue Indian gourmand.

With copper utensils, gaudy lights and even an authentic truck, Dhaba by Claridges is as Indian as it gets. Inset: Galouti kebab ▲

The decor of the floating restaurant is understated and chic, with two open decks ▲
The baby burgers are well constructed, and have a decided Goan influence ▶

Hope Floats

Located in the middle of Goa's quaint Chapora river, Flor Do Mar caters more to soul than palate. BY PRACHI BHUCHAR

THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT A FLOATING restaurant that suggests gimmicky. Yet Flor Do Mar, on the hip Morjim stretch in north Goa, is anything but. If you are seeking an experience that's novel to Goa and allows you to enjoy a quiet moment back in a space that is not a typical beachside shack, this should be on your must-visit list. A narrow lane leads to the river front, where you are whisked by speed boat to the restaurant located on a renovated barge in the middle of the Chapora river.

First, the positives. Their staff is friendly and the service is excellent; the decor is chic and understated with a covered bar area and two open decks. The bar manager is knowledgeable too, always happy to whip up a terrific fresh fruit cocktail or mocktail.

The food, though, is a tad disappointing. We started with the butter garlic prawns in white wine sauce — thick, greasy and definitely not your regular rendition of the dish. The baby burgers that came next were well constructed and the burger bun had a decided Goan influence (they use the local husk bread or poi), but needed that extra punch to go from good to wow.

For mains, the farm fresh beef stir fry with buttered rice and roasted vegetables was confusing. The flavours were Asian, yet the accompaniments tasted European. Food aside, the kiwi margarita was delicious as were the mocktails.

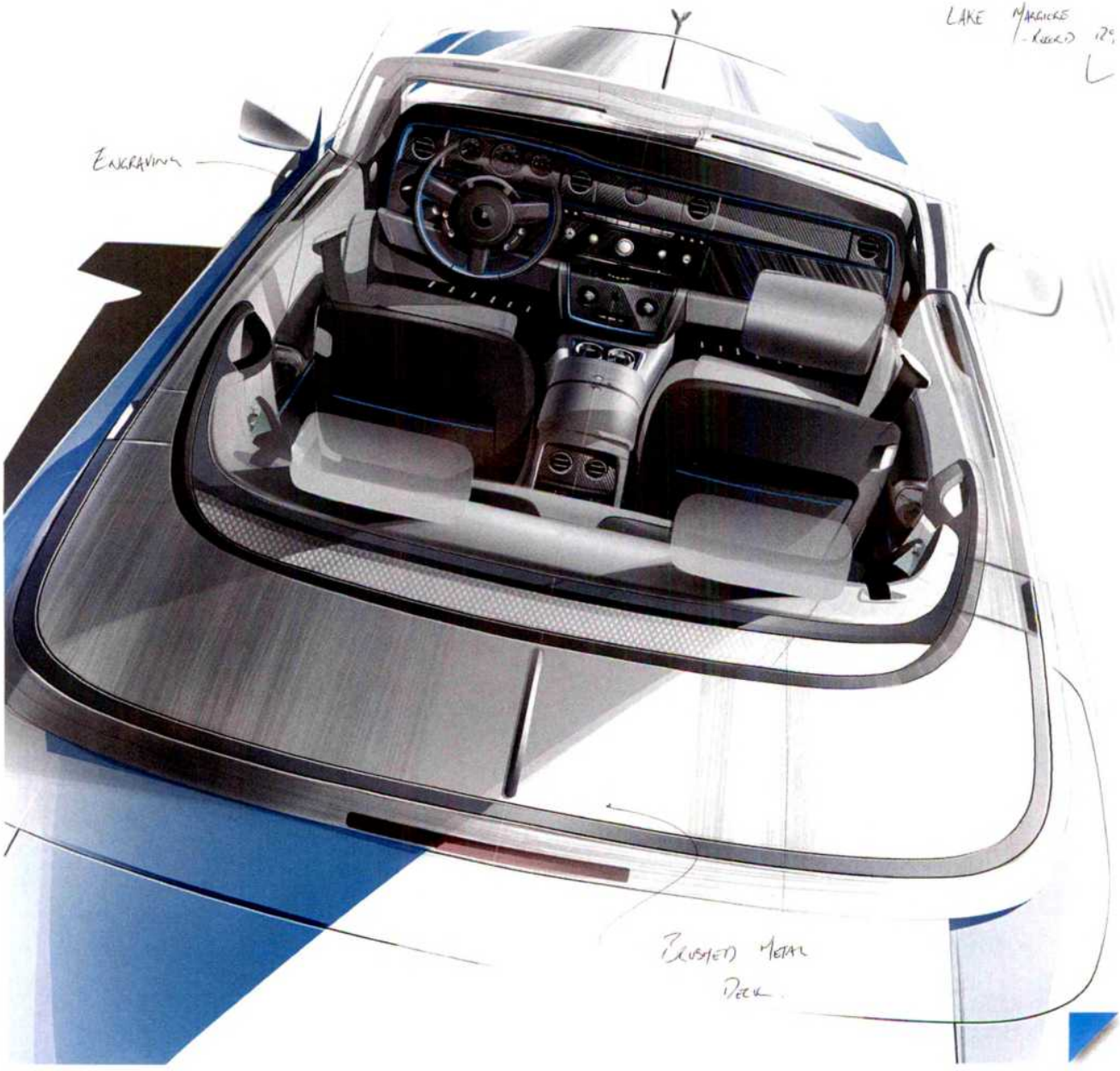
With exquisite views of the river and the sea beyond, Flor do Mar is a wonderful place to host a party and watch the sun go down as you sip on a refreshing cocktail. Go on a Friday or Sunday night, and you can have your cocktails under a starlit sky with a live band playing soulful melodies. But, as the food on the menu isn't much to write home about, I would recommend you stick to finger food rather than the mains for a truly memorable experience.

Beef baby burgers
Kiwi margarita

Meal for two
(alcohol extra)
₹2,500

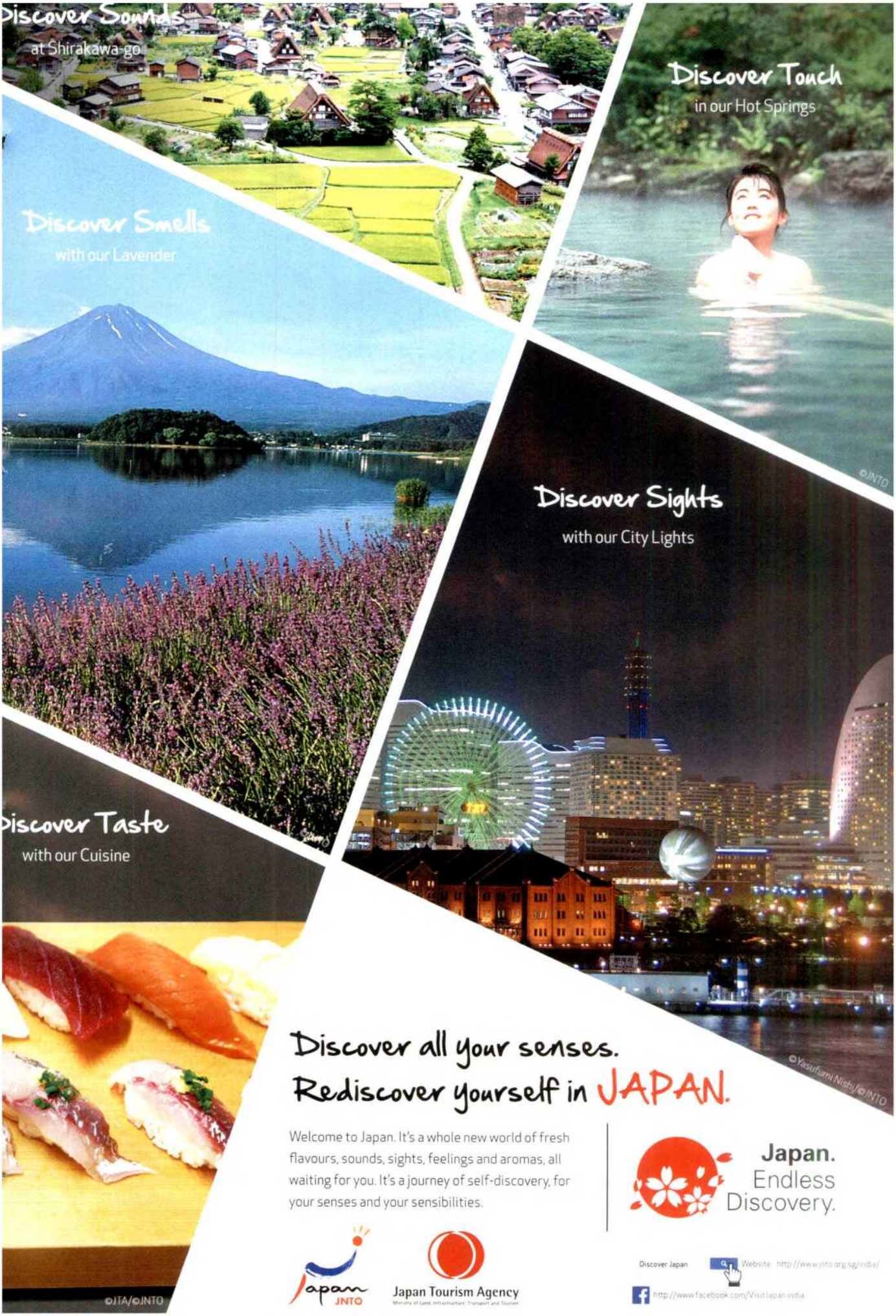
Bagwada,
Morjim, Goa

09920204080



THE PHANTOM CAR

ROLLS-ROYCE HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN FOR MOTOR CARS THAT ARE TRULY A CLASS APART. WHETHER it is the design or the technical detailing, a Rolls-Royce product is unique as well as exquisite. Keeping up with this tradition, the brand has now launched its Bespoke Waterspeed Collection. Featuring 35 Drophead Coupes, this limited edition collection takes inspiration from Sir Malcolm Campbell's iconic Bluebird Waterspeed boat. Special attention has been paid to keep the cars nothing short of exemplary, and the sketch above displays the details. The brushed steel exterior, along with an exclusively developed maggiore blue colour scheme and hand-crafted wood inlays, gives the owner the feel and experience of a boat effortlessly gliding through water at a formidable pace. Just like their earlier cars, Rolls-Royce promises nothing short of the best in terms of quality, design and driving experience. **Price on request.**



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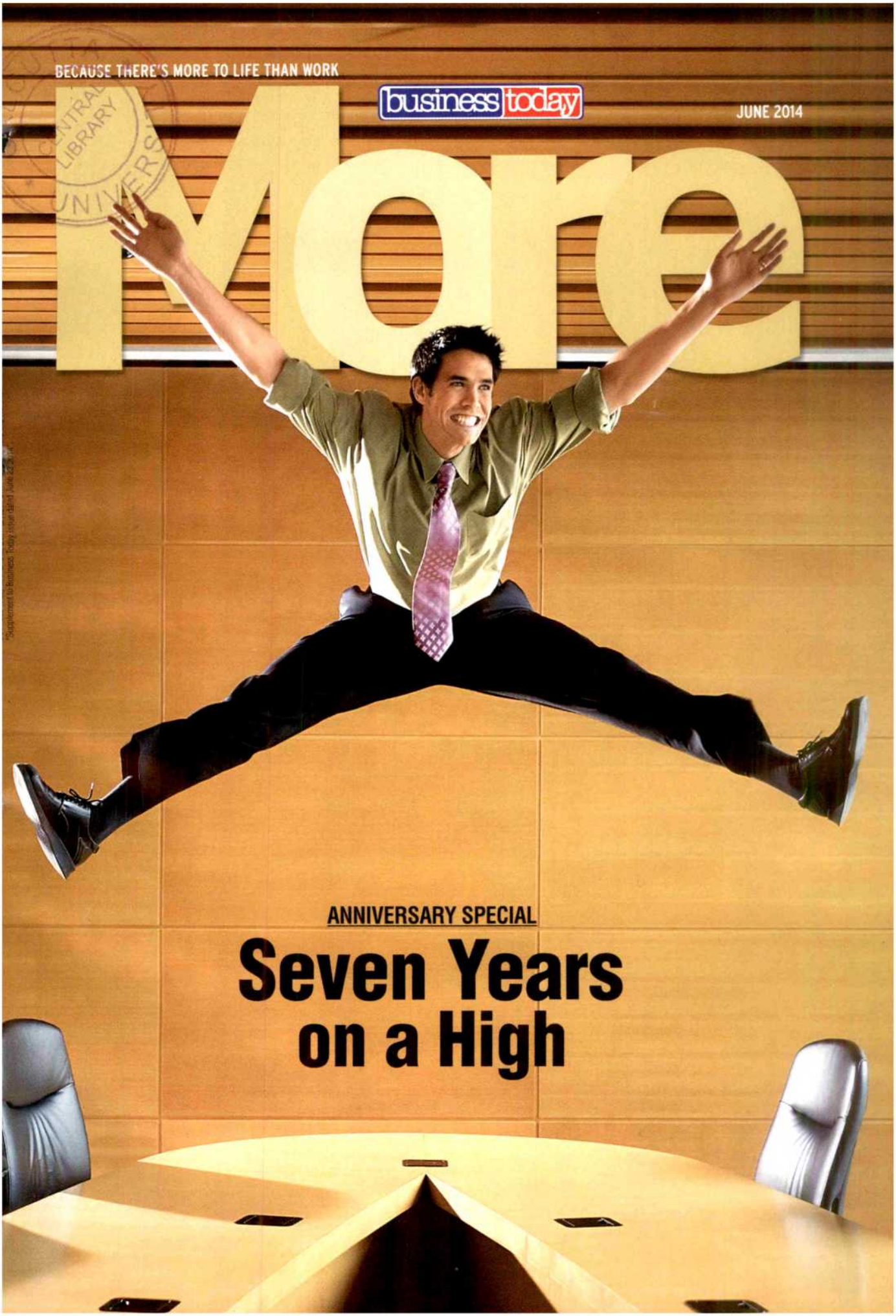

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PRACHI BHUCHAR

ASSISTANT EDITOR
JIMMY JACOB

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT
SAURAV BHANOT

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PHOTO EDITOR
VIVAN MEHRA

PRODUCTION
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NARENDRA SINGH, RAJESH VERMA

GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
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13 **YOU HOLD THE CARDS**
To luck, luxury and living the good life

INDIA TODAY GROUP

Volume 8 Number 5; June 2014

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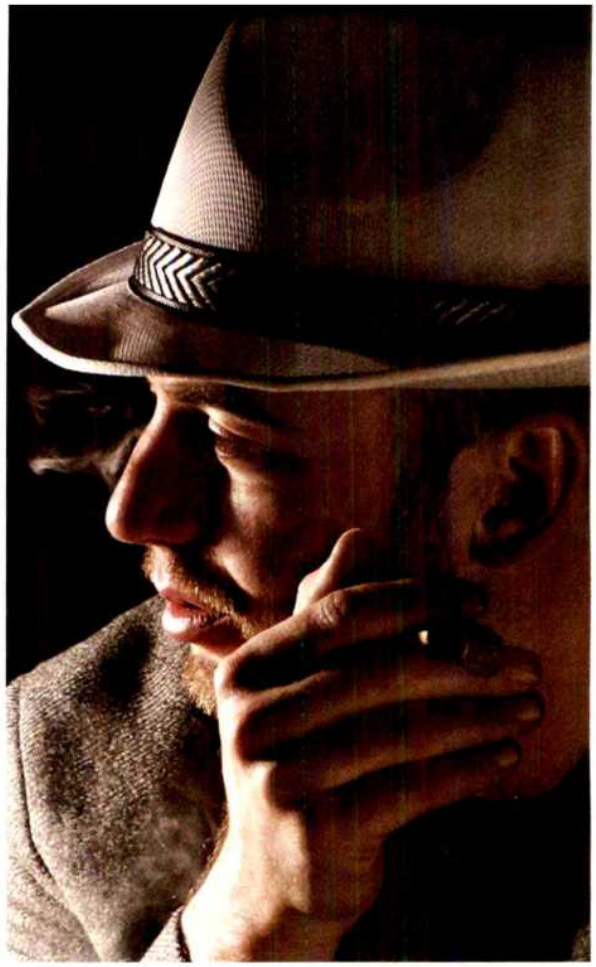

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Guess which airport topped the global list again?

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Cigar? Go Figure

Rocky Patel, a household name for cigar lovers, on picking the nuttiest, smoothest smoke to go with your evening drink

PRIORITISE PREFERENCE, NOT BRAND

When picking out your very first cigar, try to strike a balance between your preferences – how much time you can dedicate to smoking, your comfort level and your sense of taste. For instance, those with a penchant for spicy food may prefer full-bodied cigars with dark wrappers. When in doubt, consult an online tobacconist to help you zero in on the kind you are most likely to enjoy. There are no immutable rules for a first time smoker, so don't feel obliged to stick to a mild cigar with a light wrapper.

PICK A RING SIZE

The intensity of flavour depends on the ring size. Smoking a smaller ring gauge, like that of a corona, will yield concentrated flavour of the wrapper. The experience of smoking a larger ring gauge is tilted in the favour of the filler. Test the texture by rolling the cigar between the thumb and index finger; it should have no hard or soft spots.

CHECK STORAGE

Make it a point to buy cigars from a tobacconist who has a humidification system. Cigars need to be stored in an environment that's the right combination of dryness and moisture. Cigars continuously going out, splitting, unravelling, burning unevenly or yielding a harsh and bitter flavour are indicative of careless storage.

LIGHT YOUR FIRE

The way you light a cigar has a definite bearing on its performance. It is easier to light a cigar with a torch lighter because, that way, you get an even burn. For finer nuances, try a cedar spill that imparts notes of cedar to the cigar.

MADE FOR EACH OTHER

A cigar is best enjoyed with a drop or two. While full-bodied red wine does justice to the inherent sentence of a maduro-wrapped cigar, single malt enhances the spicy sensation of smoking a cigar with a Habano or Sumatra wrapper.

4 top teams 2014 FIFA

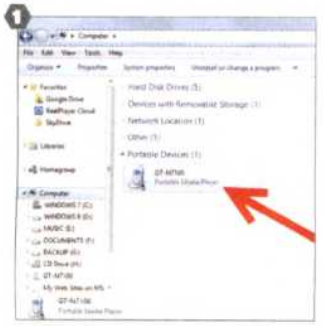
Spain
Under the able guidance of Vicente del Bosque, the two-time defending European champion has all the requisites to shine - experience and youth. Brazil striker Diego Costa is another feather in the team's cap.

Ivory Coast
Widely touted to reach the quarterfinals, Ivory Coast has striker Didier Drogba to fall back on. His motivation? This will probably be his last World Cup and major tournament.

Mexico
Taking risks and seeing them pay off comes easy to the team coached by Miguel Herrera. A good mix of seasoned veterans and emerging stars to watch out for, including Javier Hernandez.

England
Roy Hodgson's boys will feel the pressure as they go in against Italy. All hopes are pinned on blue-eyed boys Ross Barkley, Raheem Sterling and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, who have done their clubs proud.

Your Window to Data Recovery



Connect the media device or camera to your computer and wait for the SD card to be detected by Windows. Verify that a 'drive not formatted' message is displayed.

Download an application that lets you recover files from corrupt drives and storage devices, such as Asoftech Data Recovery, and save its setup file in the computer.

Follow prompts to install the file recovery programme. Choose the type of files you want to recover and select a folder in which you want these to be saved.

Select the drive letter of the micro SD card in the partition viewing pane of the recovery application. Click the recover button and wait for the scan to complete.

COURTESY WIKIHOW

Closet Fashionista

A FUNCTIONALLY SOUND AND aesthetic master bedroom can make all the difference between a happy marriage and a not-so-happy one. And, even if you're not hitched and have all that space to yourself, a little planning with regard to your closet space can add that edge of organised neatness.

WALK-IN CLOSET

This is the most convenient sort to have in your bedroom, especially if space is not a constraint. Offering depth and multiple levels, storage options in these closets are vast. Section it into zones to create easily accessible spots and out-of-reach areas where you can store seldom-used items. Utilise all the available space on the floor and right up to the ceiling by placing bins, roll-out boxes and install an extra pole if you can fit it in. A ceiling higher than nine feet allows this, and it is perfect for hanging summer coats.

Habit-conducive

Have drawers and shelves slotted on the basis of your habits. If you bunch socks instead of folding them, allocate a larger shelf. Similarly, you need more height in the long slots if you prefer to hang up shirts rather than stack them. If there is a mirror fitted in the closet and you are likely to get dressed there, install wooden or vinyl flooring and don't carpet it. This makes vacuuming a breeze.

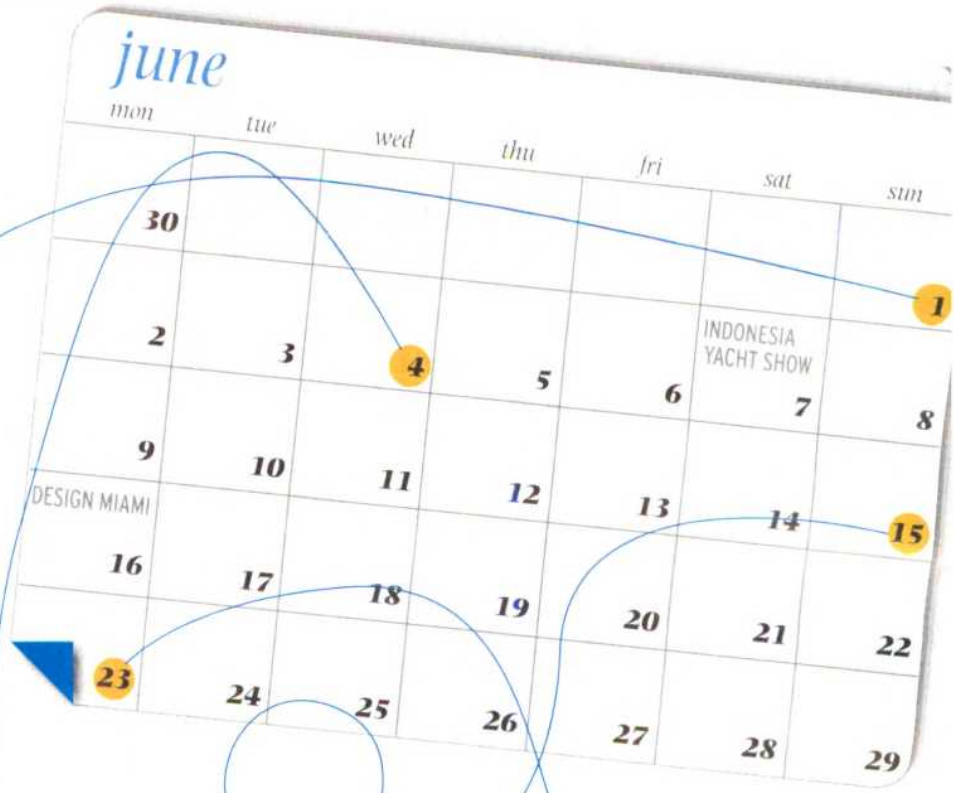
REACH-IN CLOSET

This is a sensible option if you prefer the feel of roominess and do not hoard a lot of clutter. Instead of doors, cover the slot with a curtain. Searching for tucked-away things becomes easier because you're not constantly shoving the hinge doors away with your elbows. Sliding doors and bifold doors are convenient if you do not want to opt for curtains.

Expansion by addition

Maximise space by installing a double-tiered hanging rod and hooks to the back of the closet. Cube organisers and drawer units are smart additions to a reach-in closet with a depth of 30 inches.

speed dates



1-8 June

MELBOURNE INTL JAZZ FESTIVAL, AUSTRALIA

Bringing together some of the world's most renowned jazz musicians, the Melbourne International Jazz Festival promises music lovers nothing short of an extravaganza beyond compare. A huge crowd puller for decades now, the festival has an exhaustive list of performers lined up for this year as well. From maestros to emerging artists, the repertoire of talent is quite an exciting one. Expect to be serenaded with nothing short of spectacular. For more information, visit melbournejazz.com.

4-8 June

LES VOILES D'ANTIBES-TROPHEE PANERAI, FRANCE

Held every year in the first week of June, the Les Voiles d'Antibes-Trophee Panerai marks the opening of the Mediterranean circuit for Yachts de Tradition and the first stage of the Panerai Classic Yachts Challenge. In its

19th edition this year, the yacht challenge is only going to get racier and lavish. To know more, visit voilesdantibes.com.

15-21 June

PARIS AIR SHOW, 51 EDITION, FRANCE

If planes are your thing, do not miss the upcoming Paris Air Show. With the 51st edition being held this year, it will witness over 2,215 exhibitors from over 44 countries showing off the very best from the world of aircraft. For more information, check out siae.fr.

23 June- 6 July

WIMBLEDON TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP, ENGLAND

Whether you love tennis or not, the upcoming Wimbledon Championship happens to be an event that's hard to ignore. To be held in London, it will have top-seeded tennis players - from Roger Federer to Andy Murray - vying for the big prize. For tickets and more, visit wimbledon.com.

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SWISS Business: 2 metre full length bed with innovative pneumatic air cushions and integrated massage function.

SWISS Economy: Ergonomic spacious seating with a superior inflight entertainment system.

SWISS's claim : Our sign is a promise' encapsulates its commitment to deliver a better travel experience along with strengthening the core values of "personal care, Swiss hospitality and quality in every detail" as SWISS continues to maintain its high market profile as Switzerland's national airline.

IT'S CHANGI, AGAIN

The Singaporean airport once again tops the global list, with an overwhelming number of travellers voting in its favour

Changi, with its rooftop gardens and movie halls, is designed to de-stress the frequent flier ▲

IF THERE'S ONE THING CHANGI probably needs, it's a large trophy room to store all its laurels. The Singaporean airport has won the top spot in the World Airport Awards — decided on the basis of votes cast by 12.85 million fliers across the globe — for the second consecutive year. Frequent fliers profess that Changi, which beat as many as 410 international airports to occupy the hot spot, is designed to de-stress travellers through high-end features such as rooftop gardens, a playground, a movie theatre and a Balinese-themed swimming pool. While South Korea's Incheon International Airport bagged second position, Munich airport emerged third on the list — and quite comfortably at that. Foodies can head to the Hong Kong International Airport, which has emerged as the best stopover for dining in the list. Want to go duty-free shopping instead? No, it's not Dubai you should be looking at, but Heathrow airport in West London.

VACATION LIKE BRIT ROYALTY

If you want to travel like royalty, family in tow, VeryFirstTo has just the thing for you. The luxury retail website has created a travel package inspired by the three-week tour of Australia and New Zealand by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, along with Prince George. Created in partnership with luxury travel operator Bridge & Wickers, it includes visits to many places on the royal itinerary – including the Blue Mountains and Taronga Zoo in Sydney. As for luxury, prepare to be shuttled around in chauffeured limousines, sail the seas on private yachts, take to the skies in helicopters and fly to lunch on a seaplane. All this, besides food and accommodation, for a bargain price tag of £3,41,000!

TURKEY CALLING

Who said sailing the Black Sea is taboo? Azamara Club Cruises proves it can instead be a joy to behold by adding an exciting Turkish twist to its travel itinerary. Stop over at Amasra, a place known for its beautiful beaches and rich historic culture, as you sail tranquil waters to the Greek Isles on a luxurious nine-night voyage. This port town, they say, is the closest you can come to weighing anchor in history. Also, enjoy a breathtaking view of Europe as you sit on the deck and sip on exotic cocktails. But hurry, the ship - passing through Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania and Greece - sets sail in mid-June!

ETAGS TO MAKE TRAVEL EASIER

Painful days of queuing up at the airport to stow your luggage may soon come to an end, with the introduction of a new electronic system that allows bags to be tagged at home. The new eTag, offered on a trial basis by Air France-KLM, will allow passengers to enter their flight details online before leaving their suitcase at a 'fast drop' point – eliminating the need to visit a check-in desk. A separate GPS device will also allow the owners to track the exact location of their luggage, in case it is misplaced by the airport staff.

WAH TAJ, THEY MEAN BUSINESS!

Here's some good news for the business traveller! The Taj Group of Hotels has launched The Taj Club, an entire floor of facilities and privileges catering to frequent fliers from the corporate segment. Aesthetically designed to offer immaculate views, rooms at The Taj Club are said to be inspired by the need to provide simplicity, modern elegance and functionality to its target customer base. Located on the higher reaches of select Taj

The rooms of the Taj Club reflect a contemporary mood while retaining an aura of royalty

Group of Hotels, including the Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai, The Taj Palace in Delhi and Taj Coromandel in Chennai, the rooms reflect a contemporary but elegant mood while retaining an aura of royal indulgence. Guest amenities and services include private check-in and check-out at the club reception, round-the-clock butler service, and access to exclusive meeting rooms on the Club Floor.

PLANES TO RUN ON... RUBBISH?

If we tell you what's likely to be the airline fuel of the future, you may write it off as rubbish. Funny thing is, that wouldn't be too far from the truth either. Coming up by 2017 – courtesy British Airways – is the world's first facility to create airline fuel from post-recycled waste, which is normally destined for landfills or incineration. The unit would convert around 575,000 tonnes of waste into 120,000 tonnes of clean burning liquid fuel, providing a solution to global fuel as well as garbage disposal issues. What's more, the sustainable jet fuel produced each year would amount to carbon savings equivalent to taking 150,000 automobiles off the road. If this development is any indication to go by, the future's going to be a far greener place to live in!

APP CORNER

Hotel Tonight

Free (Android, iOS)

Did your last minute travel plans leave you with no time to book a hotel room? Don't fret, at least if you have this application installed on your iPhone or Android mobile device. With Hotel Tonight, you can book accommodations at incredible rates across 12 countries – that too at the eleventh hour! And the simple interface ensures you don't waste time struggling to find the link you need.

Jet Lag no More

Heading overseas for an early morning meeting with an important client? Here are five ways you can avoid jet lag and step off that airplane feeling like a million bucks

Gradually altering your schedule before the day of the journey can help immensely ▲

Prep up for the journey

It is advisable to alter your schedule gradually, before the day of travel. If you are likely to be shifting time zones while travelling east, start going to bed earlier by half an hour each night. If you are travelling west, do the opposite. You can also try moving your mealtimes closer to the hour you'll be taking them at your destination.

Stay hydrated

Drink water before, during and after your flight to counteract dehydration. Avoid alcohol or caffeine — which can disrupt sleep and cause dehydration — a few hours before you plan to start counting sheep.

Hold back on carbs

While there are some frequent fliers who try to keep jet lag away by eating heavy for a few days before travel and then fasting on the day of the journey, there is no evidence to prove that this procedure actually helps. Nevertheless, it is beneficial to go easy on foods rich in carbohydrates or fat close to bedtime because they may disrupt your sleep and — thereby — contribute to jet lag.

Try natural light therapy

Sunlight has a great influence on our biological clock. Experts say that if you are travelling westward, bask in the bright morning light at your new destination and avoid exposure to afternoon or evening light. As for eastward flights, avoid exposure to early morning sunrays and make the most of the afternoon and early evening light.

Minimise disturbances

Try to procure a window seat, so your sleep doesn't get disturbed by co-passengers constantly shuffling their way to the washroom. Earplugs or an eyemask may also help you bag those forty winks with relative ease.

One of the great new pieces announced for the start of 2014: Hublot unveils a BIG BANG with a tonneau case.

It is the aptly named "SPIRIT OF BIG BANG".

And indeed, it embodies the spirit of BIG BANG.

It also employs the same principle of the fusion of materials with titanium, ceramic, King Gold (18 K gold with 5% platinum which gives it a deeper red colour, and which is, in fact, more precious), along with rubber and alligator skin. Here we find Hublot's pure DNA, but in a different, brand new form. This is the aptly named SPIRIT OF BIG BANG: Hublot has unveiled a brand-new BIG BANG with a tonneau case.

The beating heart of the piece is the new Hublot HUB4700 movement, redesigned through close collaboration between Hublot and Zénith teams; based on a Zénith El Primero chronograph "chassis" with date (frequency 5 Hz, 36,000 beats per hour, 278 components, 31 jewels), this movement has historically been regarded by purists as one of the best Swiss chronographs ever developed.

In short, this is a timepiece with a new shape and a new movement, but it is still 100% true to its Hublot DNA.

HUBLOT

MONACO V4 TOURBILLON

THE EVOLUTION OF THE V4 REVOLUTION

Building on its top-secret development of transmission belts no thicker than a single hair, TAG Heuer takes its avant-garde creation, The Monaco V4, to the next level—juxtaposing its patented belt technology with one of the most emblematic complication of watchmaking—the tourbillon.

The result—the fully patented MONACO V4 TOURBILLON—breaks with all accepted watchmaking codes and conventions.

The Monaco V4 Tourbillon complicates this complication further, by using, in a world first, a micro-belt to drive the tourbillon. Thanks to the belt driving the tourbillon, there is no backlash on the tourbillon. The major advantage is the absolute fluidity of its rotation. The four notched micro-thin (0.07mm) transmission belts, the design and engineering of which remains one of the best-kept secrets in watchmaking, create a very efficient shock absorbing system.

Only by taking risks, by challenging and transcending traditions, can such achievements be realized. Uniquely combining belts and tourbillon technology, the patented Monaco V4 Tourbillon proves once again TAG Heuer's continued tenure at the forefront of Haute Horlogerie design and technology.

TAG HEUER TAGHeuer

Swim On

The deepest end of a pool is no place to flounder around. The do's and don'ts of swimming

Do's

Warm-up first

Reduce the chances of straining your body by monitoring yourself before, during and after every swim. Also, take up a five to ten-minute warm-up by walking on the treadmill or indulging in some gentle laps.

Right your technique

If you try to go fast with bad technique, you are probably doing little other than unnecessarily wasting a lot of energy. While it may still be a good fitness workout, you certainly aren't getting any better as a swimmer.

Tape it all

Ask someone to watch you swim, or better still, make him videograph you. Getting an opinion or watching yourself on screen can yield some great feedback on swimming technique that you would have otherwise missed.

Don'ts

Take a swig

Never swim under the influence of alcohol or drugs that can impair your judgment or coordination. If you are under medication, check if they have side effects such as drowsiness or impaired motor skill.

Rain check

If you are planning to hit a river or sea, check what the weatherman has to say before stepping out. If he warns of storms, postpone your plans. Notice lightning while swimming? Scramble for safety immediately.

Gulp pool water

Don't swallow any water while swimming, it can't possibly do your body any good. But if you accidentally gulp some, shape your tongue as if you're pronouncing the letter K. This keeps the water from going down your throat.

Omron Karada Scan

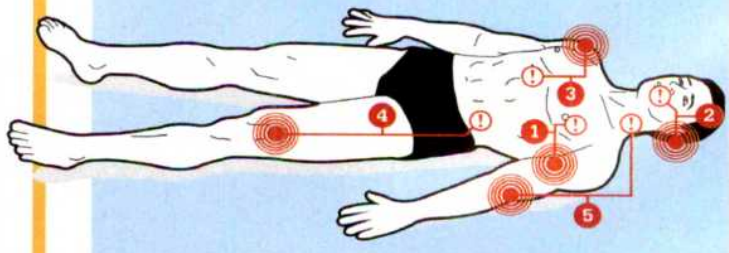
HAS YOUR WAISTLINE BECOME THE BUTT OF JOKES at the workplace, even when regular weighing scales show a five-kg climbdown? Maybe it's time you procured the new Omron Karada Scan HBF-375 Body Fat Analyzer, which gets past your healthy muscle and tendons to measure just the harmful visceral. What's more, it promises to make your dressing room seem like a prettier place too!

Price: ₹6,500

From Men'sHealth

KNOW YOUR ACHES AND PAINS BETTER

Pain is a funny thing. Logic dictates that if your hand hurts, something is wrong with it. But the human body isn't always logical. "Referred pain can make diagnosis difficult," says Dr Karen Berkley, psychology and neuroscience professor at Florida State University. See your general practitioner to determine the cause of your pain.



	PAIN IN	MAY BE CAUSED BY...
1	Your left arm	A heart attack
2	Your ears	A cavity or gum disease
3	Your right shoulders	A gallbladder attack or inflamed liver
4	Your leg and knee	A herniated disk in your lower back
5	Your elbow	Problems in your cervical spine

The Power of 7

Don't wallow in sin, dive into it with swan-like grace. On our 7th anniversary, we share how the much-maligned seven sins can be worth the price you pay.

"SOME RISE BY SIN, AND SOME BY VIRTUE FALL." When William Shakespeare wrote this in 1603 for a relatively obscure play called *Measure for Measure*, little did he know how true it would ring for an entire populace as many as five centuries later. Today, any aspiration to the divine harp readily makes way for the 8,000 cc Veyron, driven by a businessman wearing the latest suit from the house of Brooks Brothers and a Breguet chronograph as adept at showing the time as impressing friends at the high-society party he is headed to. Our advice? Go ahead and indulge, because as far as we – the folks at BT More – are concerned, the only sin lies in not making the most of a life you live just once.

CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY CENTRAL LIBRARY

SLOTH
Your house is your cocoon. Stock it up with all the creature comforts known to man and, well, indulge.

LUST
Become one... with love as well as nature at its rawest.

GLUTTONY
What's that on your plate? Let sushi and pork belly your hunger satiate.

WRATH
Whether on four wheels or two, nothing expresses fury better than these mean heavy metal machines.

PRIDE
If you've got it, flaunt it. Period.

GREED
Whatever may be your horizon, life's not worth a dime unless you learn to look beyond it. A yacht, a private jet, an island to do a Robinson Crusoe... stuff of dreams, here we come!

ENVY
Thou shalt not cause your brother to stumble, they say, but who's listening? Grab every eyeball in the vicinity with the very best in fashion.

wrath

Full Force

Raring to go at the drop of a flag, these babies are the meanest among machines. Presenting the rip-roaring best from the world of wheels and angry engines.

TEXT BY JIMMY JACOB

ANGRY YOUNG CAR

McLaren 650S

They say the McLaren 650S operates on a short fuse; twist the ignition and it puts on a display of fury that would inspire the meekest of drivers to stamp the gas pedal into the floor.
So, what makes the 650S seem more like a powerful beast itching to grapple its way out of its sleek carbon-fibre composite frame than just another fast car to hit the road? It could be the 641-bhp, 3.6 litre twin-turbo V8 engine capable of creating a virtual tornado, the ability to make 0 to 96 kmph in 2.9 seconds, or just the fact that it has a mean heart beneath all that metal! Admittedly, it's no Hennessey Venom, but at seven km to the litre, it manages to put a lot more distance between you and the gas station. Go ahead, blow your top!

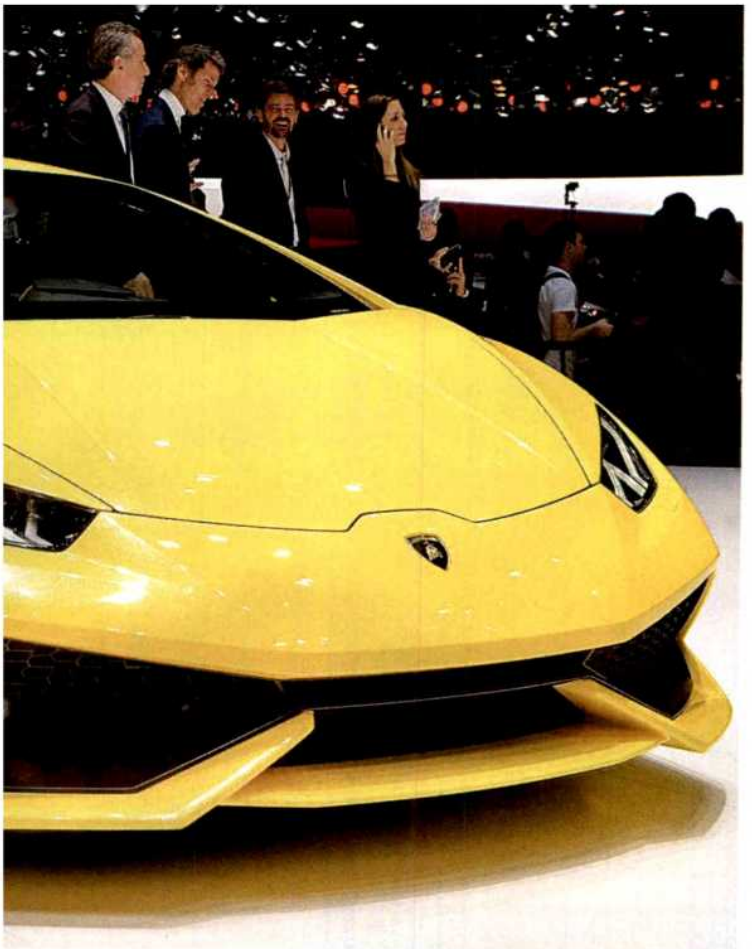
Hot Specs
Power: 641 BHP
Top Speed: 337 kmph

DEMON ON WHEELS

Marine Turbine Technologies Y2K

What has the body of a motorcycle, the heart of a chopper and the raw horsepower to outrun a Bugatti Veyron?
Fans of the legendary Y2K have every reason to rejoice, with the folks at MTT leaving no stone unturned to ensure that the hyperbike drags its fastest competitor through the dirt. While the original Y2K – built at the turn of the millennium – was powered by a Rolls-Royce Model 250 turbine engine that generated 320 bhp at 52,000 rpm, the new model is said to develop at least 100 bhp more. Acknowledging that with great power must come great stability, its creators have also endowed it with a 240-mm Pirelli Diablo rear tyre and upgraded brakes – besides the capability to run on diesel as well as Jet A1 fuel. Beware, competitors! This Y2K is never going away.

Hot Specs
Power: 320 BHP
Top Speed: 402 kmph



TRUE GRIT

Lamborghini Huracan LP 610-4

If there is a vehicular counterpart to fictional mobster Tony Soprano, it would have to be the Huracan LP 610-4. Imposing, bullish and ultra-Italian, it literally shows the other cars who's boss as it roars down the street at a top speed of 325 km per hour. The Huracan's four-wheeled drive takes it from standstill to 97 km per hour in just about 3.2 seconds, stumping onlookers but never really becoming a blur (it's built like a tank, after all). Powered by a 5.2-litre V10 engine that churns out an impressive 602 bhp, the car has a new dual gas injection system that ensures fuel economy and better emission levels without compromising on muscle.

The Huracan comes equipped with heavy-duty carbon-ceramic brakes, effecting the perfect balance of sense and performance. As for looks, it doesn't need a Cuban Montecristo to look smoking hot.

Hot Specs
Power 602 BHP
Top Speed 325 kmph

FELINE FURY

Confederate C3 X132 Hellcat LP 610-4

Hot Specs
Power 132 BHP
Top Speed 278 kmph

At first glance, the C3 Hellcat seems like a motorcycle that's had its backside ripped off by a rampaging T-Rex. Look again, and you see a two-wheeled beast that can easily give the overgrown lizard a run for its money. A piece of machinery that depicts motorcycling at its visceral best, the C3 Hellcat is a celebration of muscle. Now, to say that the Hellcat is tough would be a gross understatement; this baby is downright invincible. For one, it has a 43-pound one-piece forged hard steel crankshaft, a gigantic front engine mount and a tougher-than-nails rear swing-arm pivot. As for power, the Hellcat's S&S Cycle connections make it the absolute monarch of motorcycles – a 2,163cc monster V-twin with square 4.4-inch by 4.4-inch cylinders and a monolithic 145 foot-pounds of torque. Must be as heavy as a tank, right? Wrong. At 215 kg, it is Confederate's lightest motorcycle yet. Hellcat got your tongue?

greed

Material Man

Enough is never too much, and even the man with everything can do with a little bit more. Presenting the most exquisite objects you can aspire for.

TEXT BY SAURAV BHANOT

Penthouse Suite, Baccarat Hotels & Residences, Manhattan, New York

Have you imagined living in what's arguably the world's most happening city, and looking out of your window to gaze at its skyline? Baccarat Hotels & Residences in New York have just the right place for you, provided you're willing to shell out a whopping $60 mil! Set on the 50th floor of the building, their penthouse suite is up for sale at a staggering price. At approximately 7,380 square feet, the two-floor suite has five bedrooms and five bathrooms, a 602-square foot private terrace with the best view in the city, a private pool and pretty much everything you can expect in a luxury condo.

Cessna Citation X Jet Plane

If you are looking to up your luxury ante, why don't you check the wings on this one? Titled the world's fastest private aircraft, the Cessna Citation X – priced at $22.95 million – is quite a mean feat. Powered by two Rolls-Royce turbofan engines and built by the Cessna Aircraft Company, this jet has a top speed of 1,127 km/hr and a cruise speed of 972 km/hr. With a wingspan of 19m and length of 22m, the jet can take up to 12 passengers in its uber stylish cabin. Now, that's a good mix of substance and style!

Necker Belle, multi-millionaire Richard Branson's luxury yacht

If it's Richard Branson, it just has to be luxurious! And you're in luck, with the man putting his private boat up for sale. Part of his Virgin Limited Edition, the luxury yacht is one of the world's largest all-carbon multi-hull yachts and can reach a top speed of 25 knots under sail. A massive 105 feet in size, it boasts of ultra-luxurious cabins and an open-air cinema hall capable of hosting a 30-member bash when docked. While the selling price of the yacht hasn't been revealed yet, you can expect it to come at a tag of no less than a few generous millions.

Innocence Island in the Bahamas

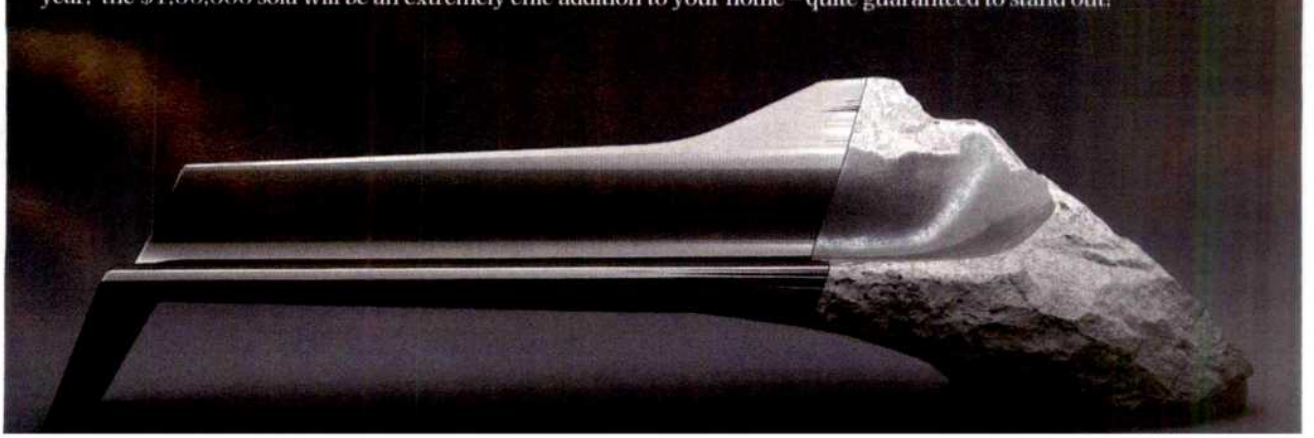
Feel like escaping your noisy metropolis to a tranquil beach of your own? How about an island worth $55 million? The largest private island in the Bahamas, Innocence Island is up for sale if you've got the bucks to spare. It is 681 acres in size, with fruit trees, tropical foliage and six white sandy beaches. You also get a 3,000 square-foot house set 90 feet above sea level, complete with six bedrooms and bathrooms along with a second residence comprising a gym and meditation deck. Doesn't sound like a bad deal at all, does it?

King-sized bed by Motoart

Now, you can take flight even in your dreams! Motoart, a company specialising in furniture made of vintage plane parts, has come up with a king-sized bed fashioned out of the outer shell of a Boeing 747 engine! The bed sports a split GE engine nacelle with chrome finish, and comes with a padded leather headboard, a footboard and customised lighting. For a tidy sum of $20,000, experience the bliss of sleeping in a contraption that once powered a gigantic flying machine, and – well – dream high!

ONYX sofa by Peugeot Design Lab

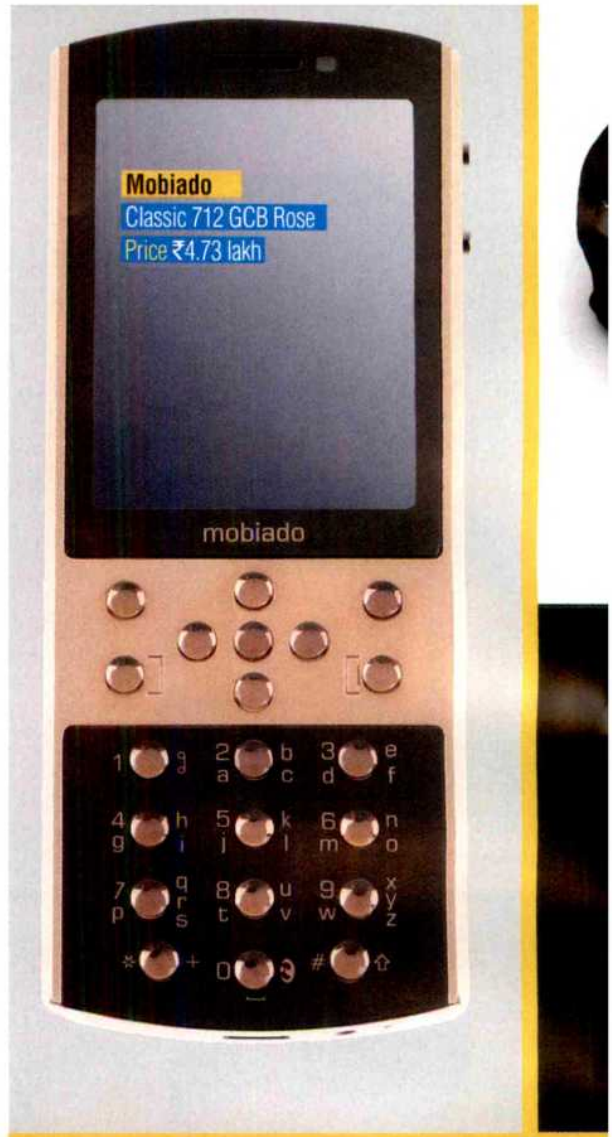
If you want to add a touch of exotica to your living room, how about a sofa made of volcanic lava? Peugeot Design Lab has launched the ONYX sofa, made of 11,000-year-old lava fused with high-tech carbon fibre. This 10-foot-long sofa, which took about 70 days to complete, comes in a stylish black-and-grey finish. Unveiled at the Milan Fashion Week in April this year, the $1,86,000 sofa will be an extremely chic addition to your home – quite guaranteed to stand out!



Ego Trip

The meek may inherit the earth, but you reign for now. Presenting luxury products that will make you seem like royalty among peers.

TEXT BY JIMMY JACOB



Mobiado
Classic 712 GCB Rose
Price ₹4.73 lakh

WHAT MAKES A PERFECT MAN? AN UNCOMPROMISING attitude that never lets him descend into the ignominy of being second-best, a personality that keeps the spotlight hovering over him each second of the day, and — most importantly — the manner in which his chest swells from the knowledge that every eyeball in the vicinity is transfixed upon him.

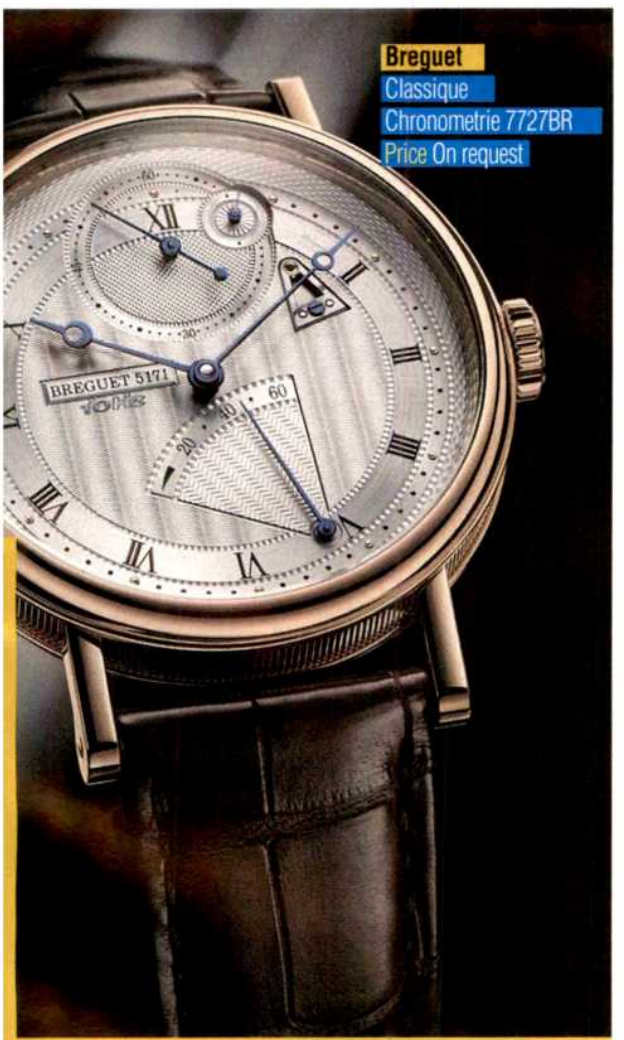
Pride is a mortal sin, sure, but there are occasions when the entire universe seems to form part of a larger conspiracy to nudge him into the proverbial lake of sulfur. Like the time he enters the party hall in a classy $48,000 Brioni tux, gently pulling the sleeve upwards to glance at the magnificent timepiece strapped to his wrist. Now, the man does not mean to expose the Breguet Classique Chronometrie 7727BR to the world (probably just wants to know the hour), but when the deed is done, he can't help but notice all the attention being generated by the delicately crafted white-gold instrument — complete with a dial engine-turned in six patterns, the cross-hatched hours chapter and a barleycorn design decorating the outer edge. Fitted with the hand-wound calibre 574DR, which takes advantage of the latest developments in the field of technology, it keeps perfect time too.

He glides over to the bar and strikes a conversation with a starry-eyed mixologist, and everybody wants what he's having. That's when the phone rings.

Out comes the Mobiado Classic 712 GCB Rose, a phone that's truly one-of-a-kind in terms of looks as well as features. The body of the instrument is created from 204.5 carats of sapphire crys-

Bose
VideoWave III
entertainment system
Price ₹3.72 lakh (approx)

ST Dupont's
Night Symphony Collection
Price On request



Breguet
Classique
Chronometrie 7727BR
Price On request

Bang and Olufsen
H6 Headphones
Price ₹24,400 (approx)

tal and 18-carat gold, providing for a unique hidden sliding battery cover mechanism. Representing sheer artistic beauty created from components personally crafted by renowned engineer/designer Peter Bonac, buying the phone was a good call indeed.

They are all starting to whisper now, and he hears somebody mention "Humphrey Bogart". Mister Perfect smiles through his martini glass — his bag has been noticed again.

A part of ST Dupont's Night Symphony Collection, this vintage travel bag is inspired by the Bogie — a stylish piece of luggage once custom-made for the face behind 'Casablanca' himself. A unique piece in beige canvas, the corners of the cutting-edge bag are reinforced in cognac leather to match the handle, and the name of its illustrious owner appears on an ultra-French red, white and blue band. But that's not all — the Night Symphony collection also includes a stylish black-and-ivory Ligne 2 lighter that Mister Perfect slides out to light his Montecristo cigar, and a pair of pens to dole out autographs.

Finally, the crowd can't take it anymore, and Mister Perfect finds himself swamped. Everybody wants a piece of the charming man who has landed in their midst, and by the time the party ends, he is truly exhausted.

Sitting back in his chauffeur-driven Bentley Flying Spur, he gives a thought to asking for some music, then decides to just let it be his own cocoon of perfectly rendered sounds. Dipping a hand into the Bogie (which, the man has discovered, is near-comparable to a superhero's utility belt when it comes to storing essentials), he pulls out his latest high-fidelity purchase — the Bang and Olufsen H6 headphones set. The plush round pads of the H6 fully envelop his ears — ensuring that nothing but the gravelly voice of Eric Clapton permeates through. An instrument that's cast in aluminium and finished in a shiny pattern of concentric circles, the gorgeously sleek headphones are pure sin on the ears. It's *Wonderful Tonight*, indeed!

Finally home, he decides that lounging around while watching *The Return of the Jedi* on television is just the thing to wash away the exertions of the day. But, aren't science fiction classics best watched in a cinema hall, where you can make the most of the visual as well as sound effects? Good thing, then, that Mister Perfect has the formidable Bose VideoWave III entertainment system.

Why, you ask? This baby is the only HDTV in the world with an inbuilt Bose home theatre system. While the awe-inspiring sound flawlessly cascades over every pitch, the exhilarating effects — conveyed through a 55-inch-wide screen — breathes life into whole planets and galaxies. All this without exposing the viewer to a single soundbox, subwoofer or wire.

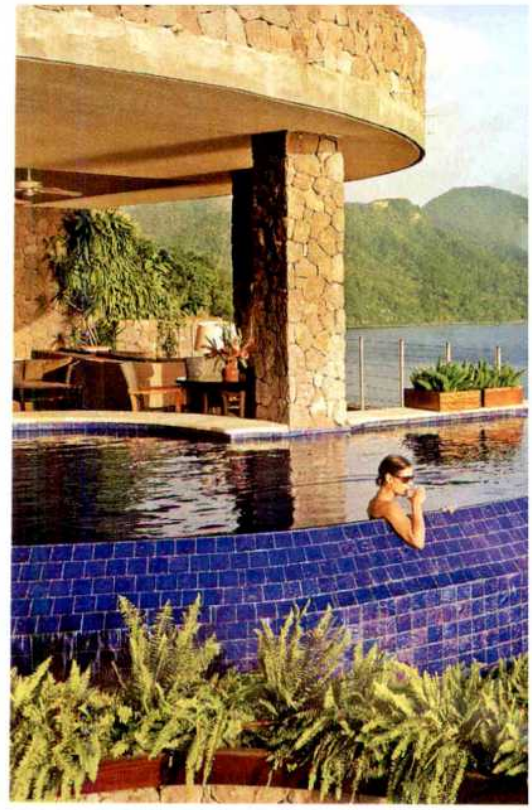
Two hours later, the movie's done, and Mister Perfect staggers sleepily into his designer bedroom — maintained at that perfect temperature by a Hitachi all-weather air conditioner. It has been a long and beautiful day, and there's no better way to celebrate it than by curling up under the fluffy quilt strewn across his bed. Still a proud man, and quite unabashedly so.

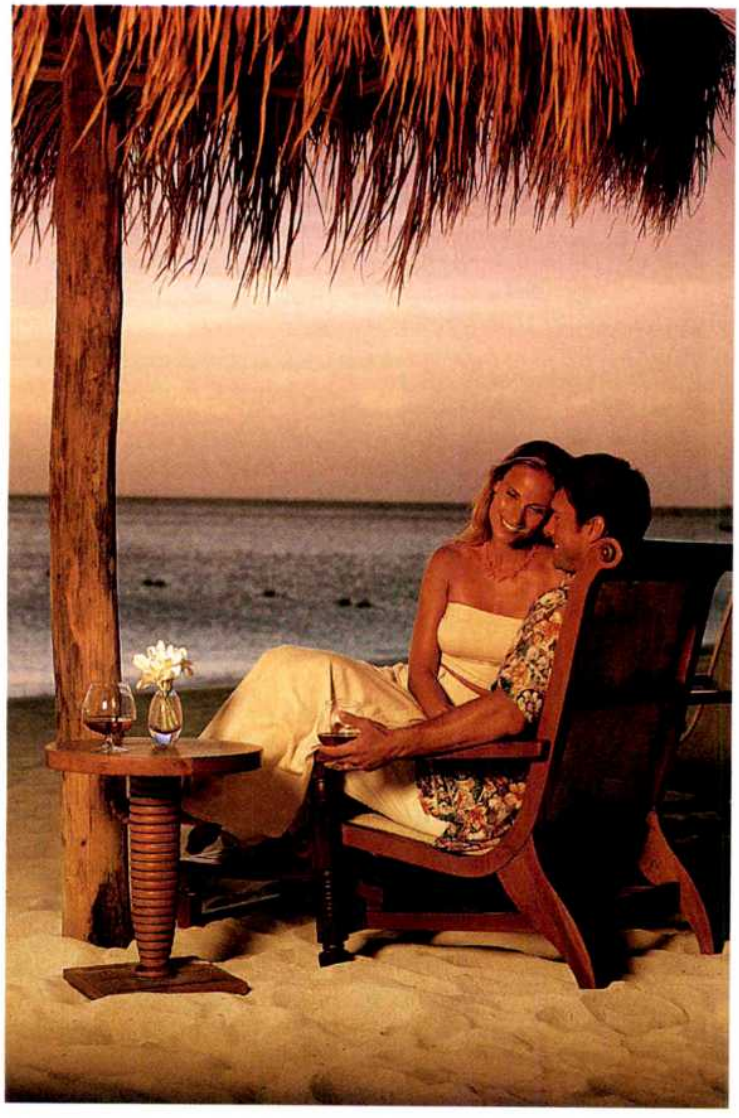
(wander)lust

Lust Resort

What's lust if not the passionate face of love? Awaken the old spark of passion, which was once a towering inferno that consumed both body and soul. Whisk her away to the deepest, most forbidden recesses of nature where you can rediscover forgotten pleasures at leisure.

TEXT BY ANINDITA SATPATHI

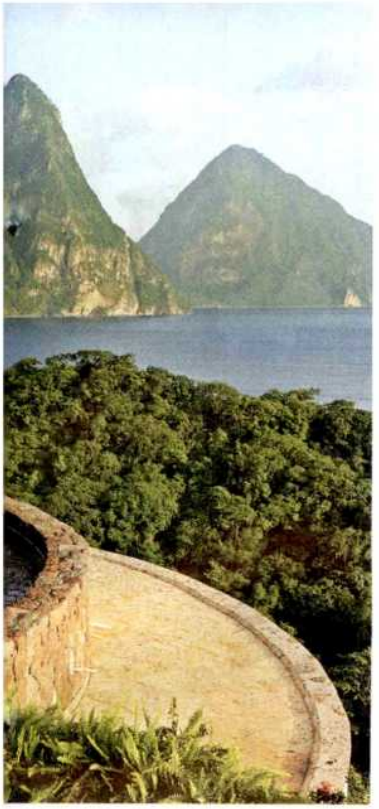




WATER

When that first wave of love washes over you, you are humbled, left vulnerable.

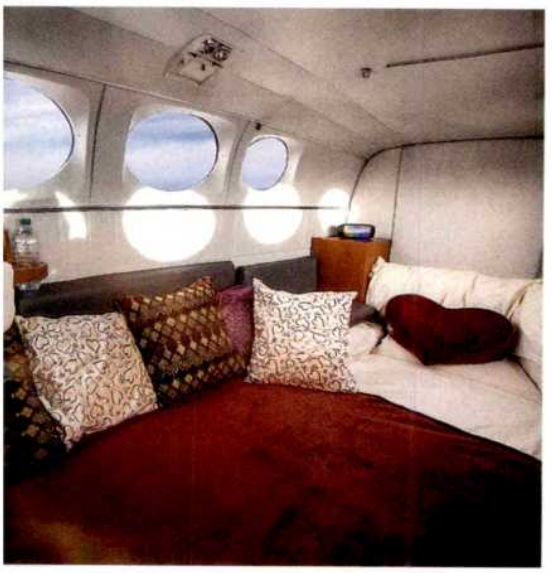
Embodying a bond that overflows and cascades into ripples of ecstasy and pools of unspoken desire, water threads together the myriad facets of your relationship. At the Leela Kovalam, straddling the gentle rock face off Hawah beach, these drops meld into an experience that transcends companionship and nudges a seductive unfolding of the senses. From a languorous walk on the beach to an early morning swim in the azure blue ocean rim infinity swimming pool, every moment is awash with eroticism. And, what could be more arousing than a sensual mud bath, followed by an evening of unbridled passion in a two-level suite?



EARTH

When you hold her, you feel at peace – in harmony with the cosmos.

An architecturally organic extravaganza that seems to sprout from the soil, Jade Mountain in St Lucia has all the trappings of a medieval palace. Each elegant suite has just three walls, the fourth side quirkily opening up into a breathtaking view of the bay and the Piton Mountains. If your partner's the outdoorsy kind, delight her with a hike up the Gros Piton and soak in the captivating views of Soufriere, the island of St Vincent and Vieux Fort. But medieval castles have their restrictions, and Jade Mountain's rule book stipulates that you wallow in the pristine allure of nature without coming anywhere near your laptop and phone.



AIR

As you get to know her, you feel exhilarated, uplifted and... dizzyingly high.

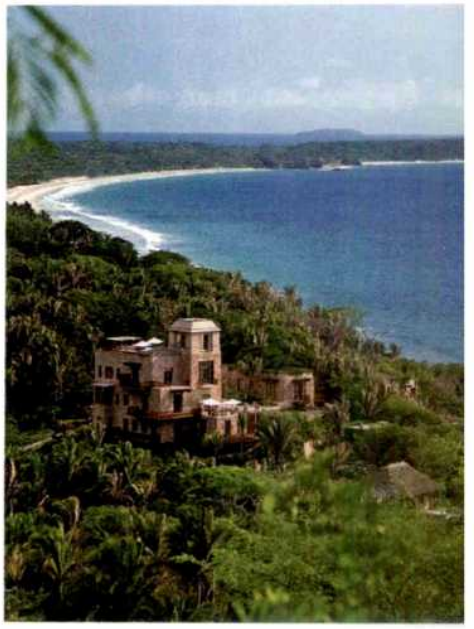
The fun, flirtatious, mischievous side of your lover persona needs that zing to keep things steamy. The Love Cloud is a 90-minute flight that cruises over Las Vegas as you surrender to the most basic of instincts. The six-seater Cessna 421 has been converted into a glamorous love cabin with a plush custom bed and two sex pillows. Let the lighting and music help you slip into the mood as you start slow, building up the sexual tension until the evening climaxes in that blessed moment of utter ecstasy.

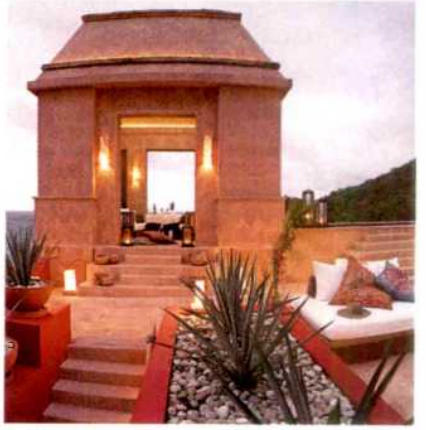
LOVE SPA

Rhassoul clay
Get down and dirty. Slather the mineral-rich muck on to each other, rollick in the steam room and top it off with a shower and a scented bath at the gorgeous spa of Island Hotel Newport Beach.

Chromotherapy
Smearing each other with bright ointments and taking colour therapy showers helps you see your partner in a new light, literally.

Royal treat
Experience heights of sensuality as you soak with your partner in a bath of goat's milk infused with essential rose oils at the Talise Ottoman Spa.





FOREST

When you become one with her, your senses meld into an ecstasy that takes root and spreads its branches.

Deep in the emerald forest of Riviera Nayarit lies Imanta Punta de Mita – a luxurious haven well-hidden from prying eyes. The embrace of the dense rainforest abruptly branches off on a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, where seven opulent casas (villas) cast their golden shadows over a miles-long stretch of beach. Sink into one of its cavernous bath tubs, a la Antonio Banderas and Angelina Jolie in *Original Sin*, or uninhibitedly splash about in your very own private pool. Revisit the lost and utterly romantic art of stargazing on the rooftop lounge furnished with plush day beds, as you sip on signature cocktails. The traditional sauna experience – temazcal – heightens that tempestuous first flush of love.

sloth

23:00

Hammacher Schlemmer
Tranquility Pod With a magical exterior and a biofeedback system that uses a pulse sensor to measure the heart rate and coordinate lighting to suit your mood, sleep is just a minute away. Price ₹18.06 lakh

07:15

Jura Impressa
J9.3 One Touch TFT This one-touch coffee machine will give you an incentive to jump out of bed. Price ₹2.16 lakh

15:30

Great Deal Furniture
Outdoor Wicker Lounge Make the most of the summer in this graceful lounger made of wicker. Price ₹14,751

Lazy Boy

Your home has all the trappings of a mansion, but does it make you feel like a spoilt Roman emperor?

TEXT BY ANINDITA SATPATHI

WHAT DOES YOUR HOUSE SAY about you, specifically on a Saturday? That you are a worshipper of the supreme force, slumber, and its younger cousin, indolence.

To ingratiate yourself with the Sandman, you need a bed like the Tranquility Pod from the house of Hammacher Schlemmer, which transforms your bedroom into a shrine for the gods of silence. While one can gush on about the aesthetic appeal of the glossy white retro-futuristic pod, it's the features – alleviating comfort to the level of art – that demand appreciation. With an octagonal waterbed wrapped in suede memory foam at its core, the bed has a texture that's somewhere between candy floss and marshmallow. Get lulled to sleep in an aura of sublime sounds from the pod's subwoofer, accompanied by the gentlest of vibrations. It's true – an era where the virtues of early risers are extolled and the rest of us made to feel like underachieving cretins, just because we happen to have a cosy relationship with our beds, is drawing to a close.

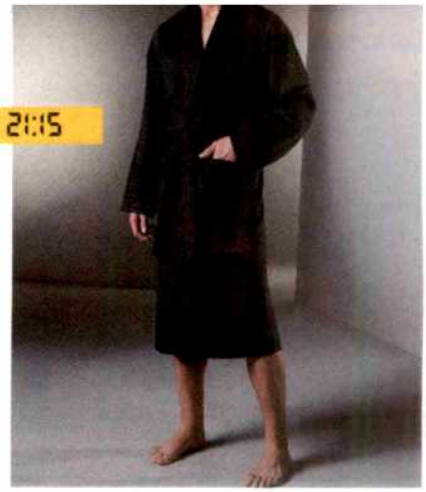
When you finally find the resolve to drag yourself out of bed around noon and head to your trusty JURA Impressa J9 One Touch TFT, you bask in the happy realisation that you don't have anywhere to go or things to do for the rest of the day. Churning out bean-y perfection, the stunningly sleek model from JURA is very much like an under-

17:00

Beurer
Electric Foot Warmer and Massager
This embodiment of cosiness is your go-to on winter evenings. Price ₹3,000

08:00

Jack Black
Scrub and Muscle Soak
This vegan, organic scrub skilfully moisturises, loosens knots and eases circulation. Price ₹3,000



21:15

Neiman Marcus
Cashmere Robe This knit creation with rolled trim is perfect for lounging about in on early mornings. Price ₹61,549

18:30

Dornbracht
Horizontal Shower
This spa-like extravagance comes with a user panel located on one end to control the water bars. Bask in the recreated glory of a beached yet utterly comfortable whale. Price ₹21.07 lakh

20:30

OGE Creative Group
Bird's Nest Bed Bring out the child in you with this marvellous sofa that encourages socialising. Price On Request

standing friend without any annoying habits. It grinds fresh beans for each cup with options ranging from creamy latte machiatto to robust ristretto, and when the work is done, promptly cleans itself. Do you really need any more reasons?

Armed with your morning cuppa and newspaper, head to the shadiest spot beside your pool. There is nothing quite like the joy of reading from the sun-dappled pages of a book while reclining on your very own Lakeport Outdoor Adjustable Chaise Lounge chair, made from the smoothest, softest wicker that moulds itself to your frame. Two hours later, you realise you've dozed off and the afternoon breeze is making you feel a little chilly.

And lo! Here comes the Beurer foot-warmer and massager to the rescue! Pamper your feet with these fleece-lined massage slippers that give a gentle shiatsu massage while warming your feet.

Now, it's time for a wash, but you feel too lazy to stand under the shower. Never mind, Dornbracht's horizontal shower solves that problem for you. Stretch out on a gorgeous slab while six remote-controlled streams of water, with customised force and temperature, wash away every trace of the weekday blues. Slather on Jack Black's Performance Remedy Body Rehab Scrub and Muscle Soak and feel the shea butter seep into your skin. Under the combined effect of the shower and the exfoliating salts, you totter on the brink of ecstasy for a few beautiful minutes.

Rudely shaken out of your blissful reverie by the insistent ringing of the bell, you reluctantly step out of the shower and into your Neiman Marcus cashmere robe in charcoal knit. Its silk lining rustles as you loop the belt through the hoops and open the door. It's your friends and they bear a very apologetic look because, as much as they hate interrupting your Saturday evening, they can't help visiting your one-of-a-kind den from time to time.

Later, sprawled in the Bird's Nest Bed with a glass of whisky, you watch a football match with the boys. Your elbow digs into egg-shaped sitting poofs as you draw deeply from a cigar. You smirk a little. It's been a long day in the devil's workshop, and you loved every moment of it!

envy

Second Look

For a man of style, turning heads just isn't enough – he should make others turn green with envy too. If fashion is about making a statement, these brands have just the ammo you'd need to make 'em burn!

TEXT BY SAURAV BHANOT

Shirt

Ralph Lauren

A shirt is something a man wears pretty much every day of his life. Unfortunately, it is also with this article of clothing that he usually ends up going majorly wrong. Just like a suit, the fit of the shirt is a deal-breaker. A good shirt is one that is great on every possible count – quality, cut, fit and style. Recognising this, Ralph Lauren's creations envelop your body like a dream, and the quality is as good as their looks. Of very superior make, his creations are sturdy enough to last many years of constant wear. As they say, a Ralph Lauren shirt is more than just a piece of clothing; it's an investment.

Shoes

Salvatore Ferragamo

Ask any lady, shoes are still the perfect yardstick to judge a man! Footwear can say a lot about your personality, and wearing a pair that's stylish almost always wins you brownie points. Salvatore Ferragamo has been making some of the most exciting shoes for years now, and you're certain to find a pair that sits well with your personality while helping you stand out at the same time. Their designs are the perfect mix of eclectic and classic, and you can count on the brand to put your best foot forward!

Accessories

Hugo Boss

Gone are the days when men's fashion was restricted to threads. Today, no look is complete without the right degree of accessorising. Whether it's a belt or a hat, there's a lot for you to explore the next time you dress up. The trick to using accessories is to never wear them all, and let one statement piece do most of the talking. Hugo Boss has been accessorising men for a long time now; it's a brand you can always rely on. Their stuff is classic fashion with a contemporary twist!

Jeans

Diesel

For most men, denim is like second skin. Men of all ages and sizes opt for well-fitting blue jeans, and they are not going anywhere for years to come. They are comfortable, stylish and work well for most occasions – especially when you have no idea what to wear. As a brand, Diesel gets the grunge and the style part of a pair of jeans rather well. Their denims sit well on most legs, and their designs and fits are rugged yet sophisticated, casual yet chic. Try out a pair and you're bound to become a loyalist!

Suit

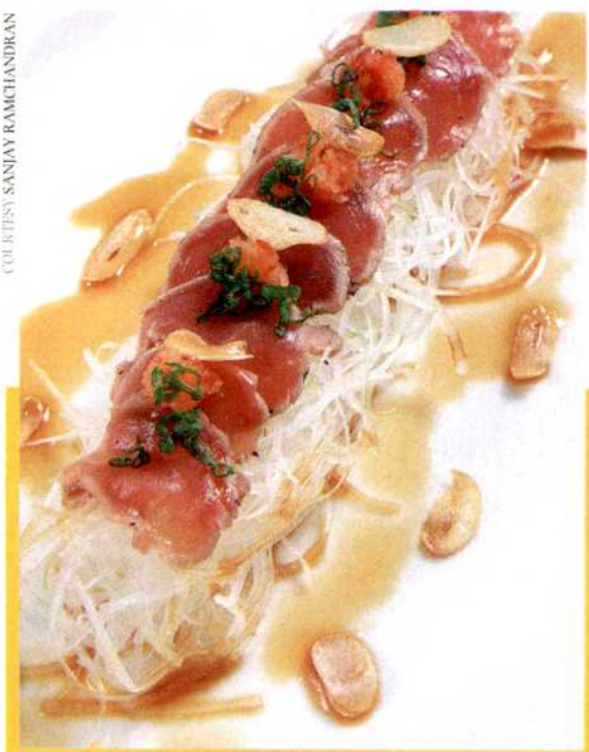
Brooks Brothers

When in doubt, suit it out! Whether you're a man of impeccable style or someone still finding his footing, the classic suit is a staple outfit that will come handy at all times – be it the workplace or a wedding ceremony. Much of how the suit will alter your look depends on its structure and fit, and the one brand you just have to head to is Brooks Brothers. Known for their sharp cuts, the British brand has established a legacy of exquisite tailoring and sophisticated dressing. And, believe us, you cannot help but fall head over heels in love with their classic looks and polished finish.

Foodie Fables

It is said that the sensibilities of avid food and art lovers make the world a better place. **Manu Chandra** speaks on the mini-renaissance that's unravelling in the Indian dining scene.

The author is the Executive Chef and Partner of Monkey Bar, India's first gastro-pub brand, and Executive Chef of Olive Beach, Bangalore.



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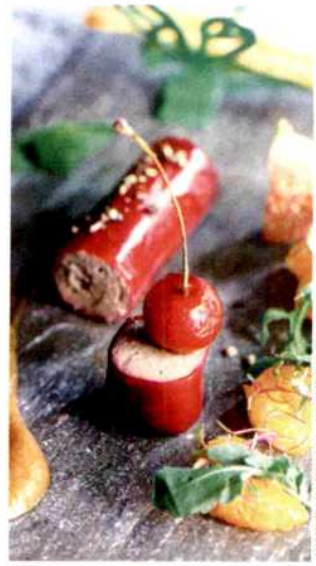

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Foreign Invasion

The popularity of Japanese cuisine, heralded by the import of Wasabi by Morimoto three years ago, was followed by Arola, Akira Back, Megu and Le Cirque. Having wowed diners with unabashed authenticity and native style, they played a role in raising a generation of informed patrons who have moved on from pizza, pasta and the ubiquitous kebab. Soon, we may even bid adieu to the Indianisation of cuisines and embrace them for their intrinsic worth. More's the possibility if rumours of Jamie's Kitchen and other Michelin-starred restaurants entering India are to be believed.

Pub Makeover

Our languishing pub culture has got a new lease of life by appealing to the country's youth. Reinventing themselves as gastropubs, dive bars, laidback neighbourhood hang-out spots, microbreweries and speakeasy bars, pubs are going the extra step to capture the imagination of the young of mind and the raucous of voice. Jaded neon lights and glass stained bars are almost on their way to becoming a thing of the past as they get infused with quirky themes and a playful vibe. Get your dose of gourmet burgers, sinful desserts and classy cocktails as you hobnob with the cool and the happening.

COURTESY SANJAY RAMCHANDRAN

Asian is the new Italian

Nowhere is this trend more evident than in big cities, where people refer to har gow, chee cheung fan, bao and the nuances of tamari versus normal soy sauce with easy familiarity – a clear departure from the hot and sour, chowmein and hakka days. Pork belly has become the benchmark of any self-respecting Pan-Asian eatery, and the quality and execution of this particular dish determines whether diners are likely to visit again. Mamagoto, Yauatcha, Kofuku, Crystal Jade, Singkong, Akira Back and Dimcha and Dao are classic examples of this.

COURTESY MASALA LIBRARY BY JIGGS KALRA

A Twist in the Kale!

The modernisation of Indian cuisine crept up on us a few years ago, unostentatiously but firmly. This trend is most manifest in the style of presentation – in a shift from a hearty, family-centric style to edgy nouvelle cuisine. Stepping out of their comfort zone, restaurants are zealously embarking on perfecting their very own unique formula for diners, pleasing hordes of critical gourmands. French bistros and kitschy contemporary cafes have adopted a mish-mash of exotic and quality ingredients, churning out experimental dishes such as fish moily and beetroot chops with elan. For a taste of this transformation, head to Ziya at the Oberoi or Masala Library by Jiggs Kalra in Mumbai. Be assured of gastronomic extravagance at Varq, The Taj and Indian Accent at The Manor in New Delhi. Also, on the anvil are eastward expansion plans of Floyd Cardoz of Tabla fame.

Rise of the Macaroon

Apart from finding a place in the lexicon of the Indian pastry, this delicate, brittle and gooey confection has managed to outshine the cupcake craze that had gripped us briefly. Originally fuelled by Le 15 Patisserie, Amande and L'Opera, these are a favourite with home-based bakers and patisseries who like to experiment and raise the bar. Try Mandakini Gupta's Smitten Bakery in Delhi and Sonya Balasubramaniam's Pate Sucree in Bangalore. Cafe of Joy in Whitefield is notable for its mind-boggling range of German pastry.

Toast to Indian Wines

If the efforts of wineries like KRSMA and Fratelli, and the introduction of new varietals like Sangiovese are anything to go by, the Indian wine industry is sitting on a brighter future – one that is mercifully quality driven. More notably, Chandon's recent arrival and the latest acquisition of 30% of Sula by Anil Ambani is a strong indicator of an impending boom in Indian wines. Cheers to the vineyards in the country that have made a mark!

COURTESY KUNAL CHANDRA

From Farm to Plate

This relatively nascent but noteworthy trend is being driven by a handful of passionate farmers in an effort to push quality produce into institutions and homes alike. Trikaya from Pune and First Agro from Bangalore are making terms like heirlooms, organic and pesticide-free more relevant, bringing to our plates a repertoire of ingredients that were previously seen only in fancy recipe books. The natural, 'organic' rage has been dogging us for a while now, but this time we are jumping on the bandwagon!

top shop

Worth a Look

There are a few things Prada does better than other fashion brands, and making fantastic eyewear is definitely one of them! This particular piece is a welcome change, and is sure to make a striking impression.

Price: On request

Coffee, Anyone?

Part of a new Fendi Casa collection unveiled at the reputed Maison & Objet Fairin Paris earlier this year, the Thierry Lemaire Ginevra coffee table can be a classy addition to your drawing room. What's more – thanks to its muted look, it goes perfectly with most themes.

Price: On request

Pen Preference

German luxury stationery brand Lamy plans to jazz up your writing experience with its AL-star BlueGreen special edition. A pen that livens things up with its bright colours and design, it is available exclusively at William Penn stores.

Price: On request

Mad Hatter!

With the summer in full swing and everybody planning their beach vacations, picking the right hat is of utmost importance. If you are among those looking to make a fashion statement, this Paul Smith hat can be a great option. It is colourful yet classy, and will sit well with most outfit choices too!

Price: On request

Feeling Blue!

Powder blue is the colour of the season, and should definitely find a place in your wardrobe. These DSquared pants, for instance, are a fun option for those looking to ditch the greys and browns. Available exclusively at The Collective stores nationwide, you may team it with a formal shirt at work or go casual in the evening.

Price: ₹33,000

Shoe-Stopper!

Sneakers are the new black leather shoes! You can wear them with almost everything, at any time of the day. Grab a pair of these Tom Ford sneakers and your feet will be talk of the town. Classic in design and solid in colour, they are ideal even for those who like to keep things subtle.

Price: On request

Let There be Light!

Lovers of old world charm are sure to find favour with this one. Part of a whole new range of metallic accessories from home decor brand Address Home, this candle holder is both exquisite and timeless. Whether you're looking at a corner or centre table piece, feel free to zero in on this regal product that's sure to leave your guests mesmerised.

Price: On request

Golden Delight

Here's something to give your bathroom a royal touch. The X-Sense collection by Italian faucet brand Newform - available in gold and silver - promises just the right touch of elegance and grandeur. The products also have Swarovski crystals to further enhance the appeal. Go ahead and add some lustre to your life.

Price: On request

Of Chopsticks and Zen

If sushi is your thing, En at Mehrauli is where you should head to. BY PRACHI BHUCHAR

IT'S NOT A FIVE STAR ESTABLISHMENT or a global chain, but En – with its distinctive cuisine – makes a happy dent in Delhi's Japanese restaurant scene. Located at Ambawatta complex in Mehrauli with expansive views of the Qutub Minar, the interiors remain true to the cuisine while steering clear of the clichés. The restaurant boasts of near-fantastic service, and the fact that it brims over with Japanese families on weekends and businessmen on weekdays is proof enough of its authenticity.

The chef is from Japan, and that's what helps distinguish En's food from other restaurants of the kind trying to make their mark in the city. We began with the assorted tempura platter, and while I have never been a fan of this dish, the rendition was very good. The batter was light, and in the absence of excess oil, the vegetables and prawn remained crisp and flavourful. Similarly, the teppanyaki foie gras with scallop and braised radish – cooked in a manner that retains its true flavour – literally melted in the mouth. Each roll of the sushi nigiri take, an assortment of the day's best, was crafted to perfection and served with fiery wasabi that truly hit the spot.

Tempura platter
Teppanyaki foie gras

Meal for two (alcohol extra)
₹5,000

H-5/1, New Ambawatta Complex, Kalkadas Marg, Mehrauli, Delhi-110030

9810363554

But if you are still hungry after your sushi craving has been met, I would recommend the fish of the day in a spicy miso sauce. Though a tad salty, it's fresh and light. While much of the menu at En has been crafted with the native Japanese in mind, the menu is easy to navigate through – even for vegetarians. The only disappointment was the assorted dessert platter, which could have done with a much-needed facelift. Nevertheless, round off your meal with a pot of green tea and you'll leave feeling happy and content. The prices at En are on a par with other Japanese restaurants, so be prepared to spend generously if sushi is your thing.

The interiors of En remain true to the cuisine while steering clear of the cliches. Inset: The shrimp tempura ▲

The interiors of Veda Cafe are colourful yet laidback ▲
Feel like something different? Try a grilled fish neer dosa, served on plantain leaf ▶

Comfort Food

With a relaxed ambience and delectable food surprises, Veda Café leaves a lasting impression. BY SAURAV BHANOT

WHEN A SMALL EATERY REVAMPS ITSELF, you don't even feel the need to look up. But when a brand does the same, you do take note. The well-known Veda has reopened as Veda Café and, as the name suggests, the place and its menu now have a casual and relaxed zing to it. Veda lovers will vouch for the lingering taste of the food served there. It has been nine years since the brand's launch and this is probably its first strong reinvention.

Though its interiors are still fantastic to behold, they are no longer overtly grand or overwhelming. Enter, and you will quickly find yourself at ease in this cozy restaurant with the perfectly laidback vibe for a Saturday brunch.

Veda may have been known more for its North Indian offerings, but its new avatar transcends petty boundary concerns with great elan. While the South Indian twist to the vada pao makes it extremely tasty, it may not find approval with the ones who like it just the way it is. The palak patta chaat is rather brilliant, and the crispy idli does nothing short of blowing your mind. While the chicken 65 isn't the best you can get in the city, it isn't all that bad either. The sakora murgh and grill chicken serve their purpose well.

The real scene stealers, however, are the Kerala vegetable stew and grilled fish neer dosa — both equally delectable, well-prepared and difficult to refuse! Anyone who likes South Indian flavours should definitely try the two. And those who don't, get ready to shift loyalties!

For dessert, the malpua mille feuille is the dish to go for. Extremely sinful, it will leave you craving for more. The Bombay falooda, on the other hand, can be avoided.

Does Veda Café live up to the brand name it carries along? I'd say it creates its own identity instead. It's certainly worth your visit!

Kerala vegetable stew, Grilled fish neer dosa

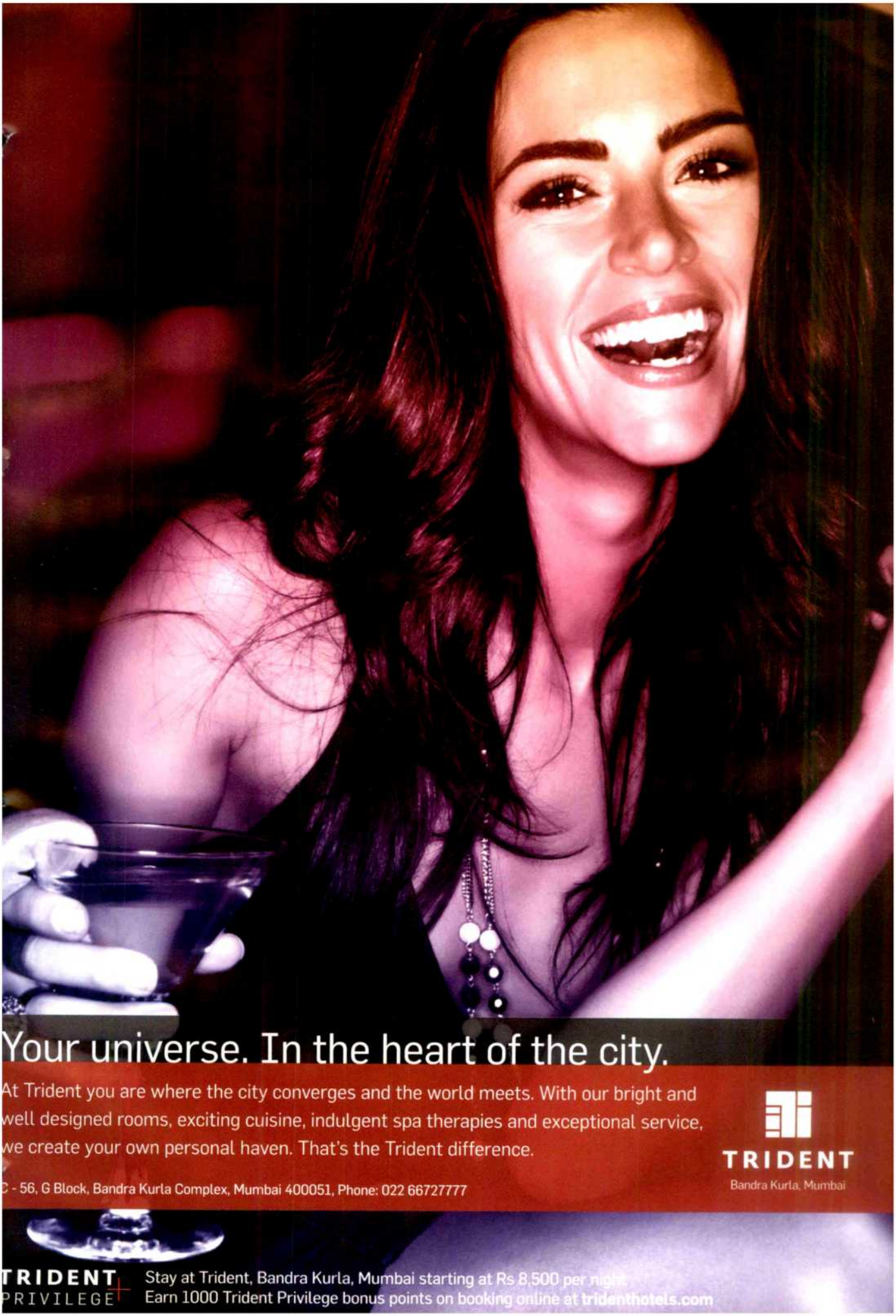
Meal for two (alcohol extra)
₹1,500

Second Floor, DLF Promenade, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

011-46040707

SOUND OF MUSIC

DO YOU PREFER SOUND OVER LOOKS, OR VICE VERSA? HERE'S AN OBJET D'ART THAT won't compel you to compromise on either aesthetic. Bowers & Wilkins, a company famed for creating devices with cutting-edge sonic technology, has launched the 805 Maserati loudspeakers as a special edition model to celebrate the company's relationship with the Italian luxury car manufacturer. The speakers combine the performance of the brand's 800 Diamond Series speakers with the charm of Maserati's famed interiors to bring out a product that's as stunning on the eye as the ear. Designed to reflect an opulent yet understated Maserati car, the speakers feature luxury black leather, birdseye real wood veneer and Maserati's Trident on the integrated stand. With its spectacular design and technical brilliance, here's something you can proudly flaunt at the next party. **Price on request.**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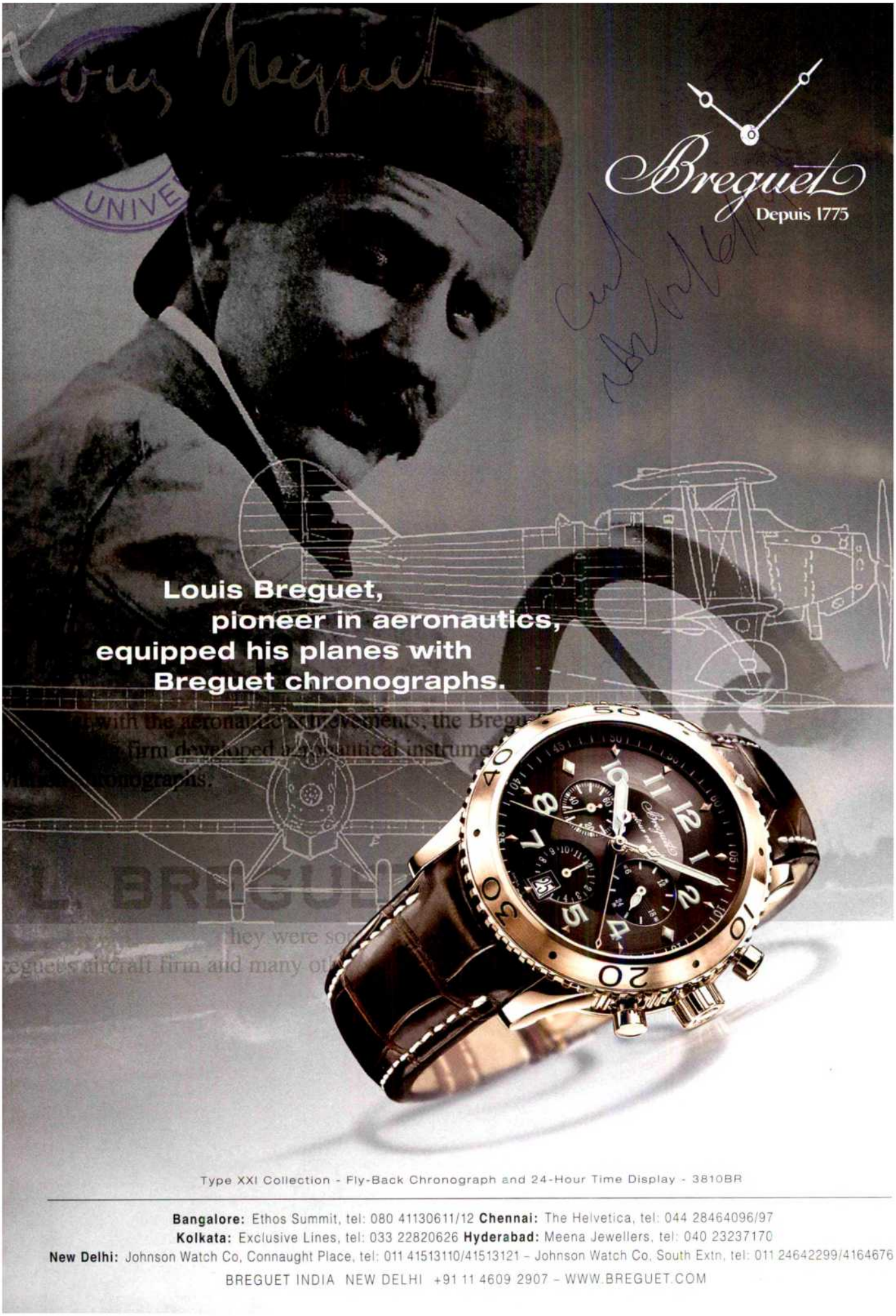
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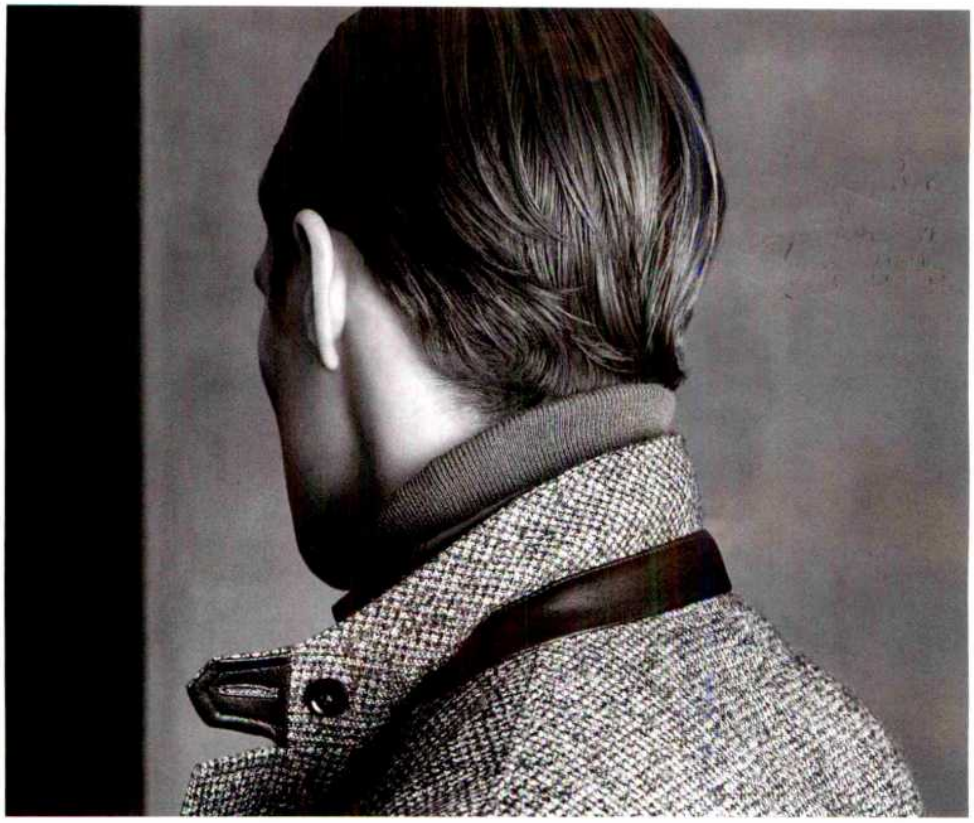

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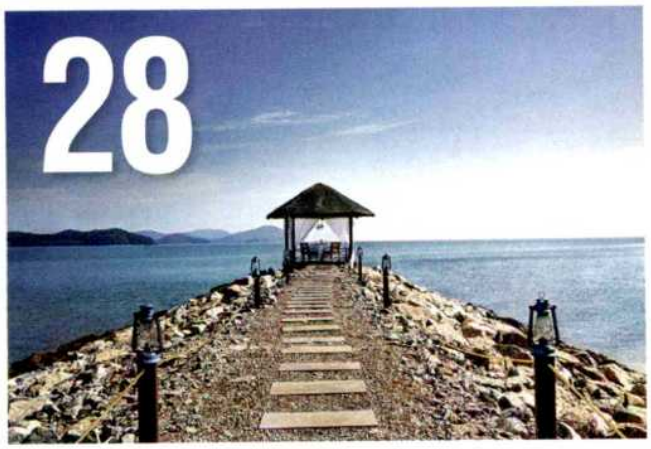

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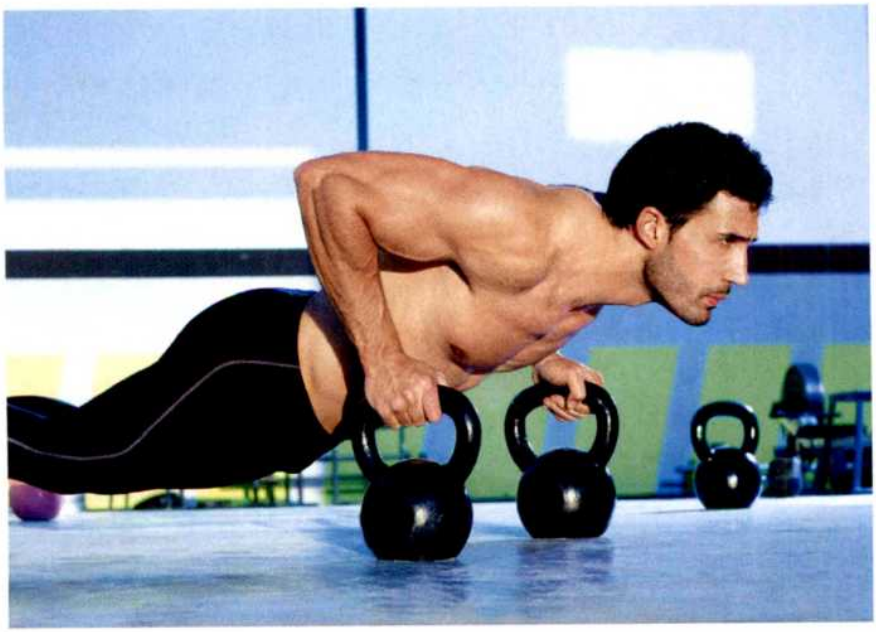
Work a Sweat

Too lazy to hit the gym floor? Motivate yourself with celebrity trainer Shivoham's pointers on the art of working out.



DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE WARM-UP

No matter how much you may want to dive straight into the heavy stuff, a warm-up is imperative before you commence on your workout routine. I would recommend dynamic stretching, which induces mobility in joints and flexibility in muscles. Try this over static stretching to get the most out of your warm-up routine.

A COMBINATION OF BASICS

Your workout should cover the 10 areas of fitness – endurance, strength, stamina, power, speed, flexibility, agility, coordination, balance and accuracy. A comprehensive workout routine incorporating bench work and cardio touches upon all these elements.

TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

As your performance in the gym improves, push yourself harder. Basic toe-touching and the duration for which you hold a plank give you an insight into the measure of your fitness. Focus on free-hand exercises – push-ups and squats – before moving on to body-weight exercises. The latter are probably the most important part of the male workout routine. Do some research on which moves target your muscles and try out variations of those, for instance – an incline bench press is better than a flat bench press.

BE PATIENT

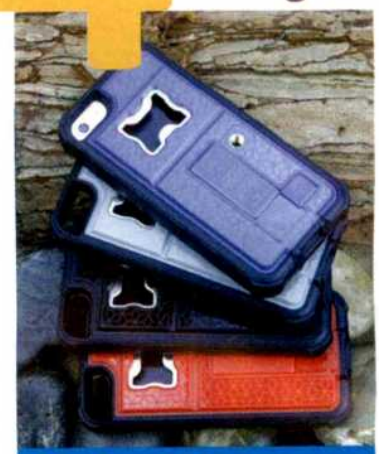
Do not expect immediate results. It takes about 12 weeks for results to start showing, so give yourself that much time. As you begin to perceive an awareness of your own body, you instinctively identify the techniques that work for you. Analyse your form every few weeks and then push on the intensity.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE SCALES

Let the mirror be your guide. When you're into weight training, the conversion of flab into muscle may not reflect immediately on your weighing scale.

Shivoham was at The Park, New Delhi, for a fitness boot camp

4 reasons to Hangout



Shock-resistant
Gear up for Hangout, a multi-functional phone case that might just be cooler than the phone itself. Built for the iPhone 5 and 5s, it is an impact-resistant tech marvel with looks that will floor the beholder.

Flameless Lighter
Not impressed yet? The case also has a flameless lighter - a USB rechargeable metallic coil that can light a cigarette or a tinder. A slide-over safety cover makes it user-friendly.

Screw Mount
An M6 tripod screw mount in the back of the phone case makes selfie-taking a breeze. It threads easily through most tripods and camera mounts.

Bottle Opener
Last but not the least, it has a stainless steel bottle opener. Aptly titled the hangout case, it has everything you might need when spending time with friends, including snazzy colour options and a safety lock.

Pull off that Jazz Square

A jazz square is a step that may look difficult, but is easy when broken down. Stand with your feet together, arms by the side and the knees softly bent.

Place your right foot across the left and transfer your body weight to the right leg. You need to do this with attitude in your upper body to accentuate the motion.

Now, swiftly pull your left foot back and transfer your weight on to that leg. The trick is to be able to go through the motions fast while keep each of them distinct.

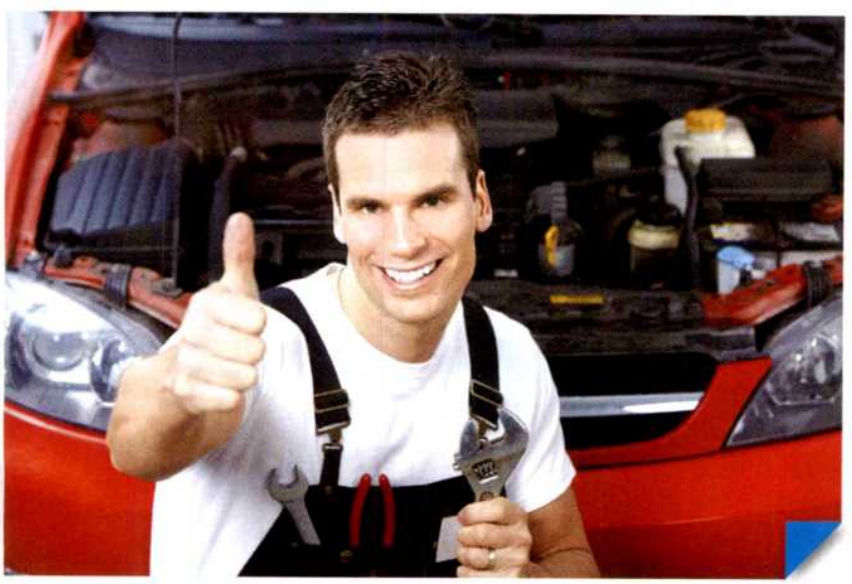
With your right foot, step to the side and create about a shoulder-width gap between your feet. Now, close the gap by moving your left foot close to the right.

Under your Bonnet

A MAN'S COOLNESS QUOTIENT IS directly proportional to his car's prowess, but don't put too much pressure on your new mean machine while showing it off to your friends. During the break-in period at least, go easy on the gas pedal — there will be time enough for speeding after the car has found its wheels.

FIRST 1,000 MILES

The precedent you set during the break-in period will determine your car's performance for a long time to come. For the first 1,500 km, maintain a light touch on the accelerator – this keeps the engine under 3,000 rpm and helps break it in ever-so-gently. Revving up a brand-new car to warm up the engine is a strict no-no. Go for steady increases in speed and climb to a max speed of 80 kmph. Club your errands to avoid taking the car out for frequent short drives, where you tend to accelerate more.



Avoid long idling periods

Don't leave your car idling for too long because it makes the oil pressure drop and hampers lubrication. To optimise the sensitive element of oil pressure, which is still in a state of flux for the first few weeks, avoid long idling periods.

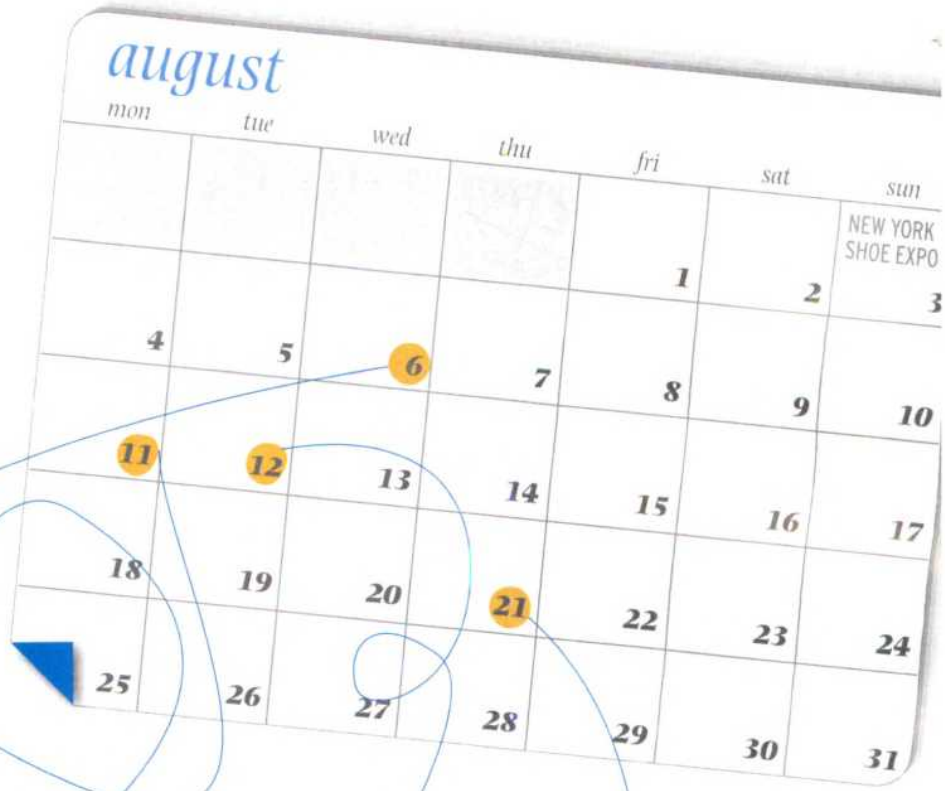
Spare the load

As this is the time to show your car some TLC, don't pile all manner of clunky things into the boot. Make it a point to not tow heavy loads either; it will only put pressure on the drive train and transmission, which are settling in.

DON'T PROCRASTINATE

Be perceptive to changes in the feel of the wheel in your hands. If the car starts sluggishly, vibrates or makes uneasy sounds, it may be time for a trip to the mechanic. Every bump and pothole you go over has an impact on the shocks, bushings and alignments. Worn shocks, in turn, cause the wheel bearing and driveline components to wear out faster, resulting in creaking noises. Replacing the suspension parts every few years can give your car a new lease of life.

speed dates



6-16 August

FESTIVAL DEL FILM, LOCARNO, SWITZERLAND

For the last 66 years, Festival del Film has been probably the most recognised platform for new and emerging talent in the world of cinema. The festival, which draws nearly 8,000 people every year, has been instrumental in shaping the careers of moviemakers like Spike Lee and Stanley Kubrick. If you're among those who like inspiring cinema and are eager to check out the works of tomorrow's mavericks, Locarno is the place to head this month. For more, visit pardo.ch.

11-18 August

SZIGET FESTIVAL, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Music lovers, rejoice! Sziget Festival, one of the largest music fests in Europe, is back with another edition that features over 1,000 different performers and caters to all genres of music, from electronica to pop. This week-

long party sees close to 70,000 fans thronging the venue. Want to be one of them? Visit szigetfestival.com.

12-16 August

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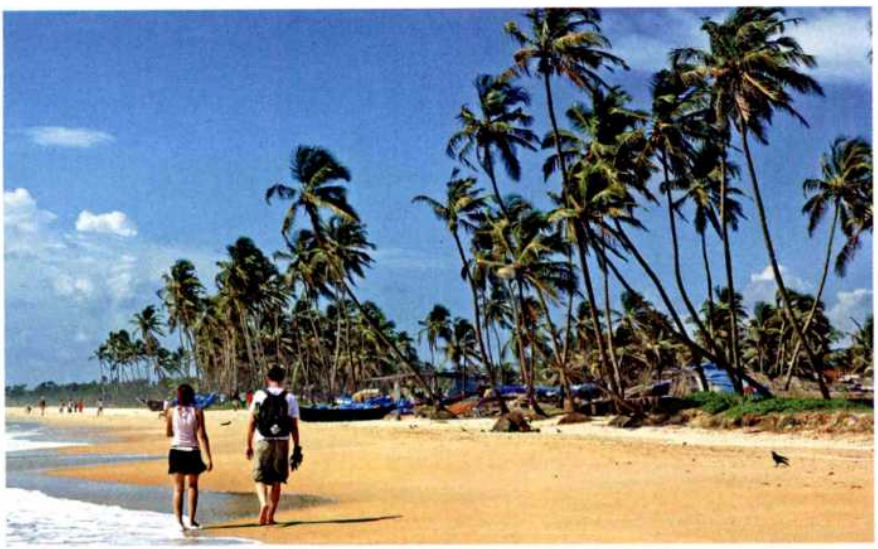
GOA ON TOP

The tourist hotspot was chosen as the Best Indian Destination for Relaxation-2014 at the Lonely Planet India Awards



Goa is the perfect introduction to the enigma that's India ▲

LOOKING FOR A HOLIDAY destination where you can stretch your legs without a care in the world? Look no further than Goa, which has won the title of 'Best Indian Destination for Relaxation – 2014' at the recently concluded Lonely Planet Magazine India Awards. In their report, the panelists judged that not only is Goa a fabulous beach destination complete with swaying palm trees and wild parties, it is also the perfect introduction to the enigma that is India. According to tourism officials, Goa's draw lies in its curious mix of temples, cheap marketplaces and marvellous cuisine with picturesque beaches (most of which have been unanimously voted as the best in the country) and ultra-luxury hotels. To arrive at this decision, the judging panelists of the Lonely Planet Magazine India Travel Awards — comprising travel experts and professionals — shortlisted candidates in various categories before inviting readers of the Lonely Planet Magazine to vote online as well as through the magazine.

ASIA'S MOBILE CONNECTION

When it comes to booking tickets through mobile phones, nobody can beat the Asian traveller. A study, conducted by online accommodation specialist AsiaRooms and electronics giant Lenovo, has found that people from Asia lead the field when it comes to mobile travel bookings as well as searches – at 33 per cent and 59 per cent – compared to the global average of 25 per cent and 46 per cent respectively. Asia recorded 59 per cent Internet searches for travel accommodation, a hike of 13 per cent compared to the global average. At 65 per cent, Thai respondents were the highest among Asians. Also, one-third of the Asian travellers booked travel accommodation through their mobile devices, an increase of 8 per cent on the global average.

COURTESY NAVEEN CHANDRA UPRETI

MUD PACK FOR TAJ FACELIFT

Mud packs are good, and not just for your face! Years of exposure to pollutants has turned the Taj Mahal pale yellow, and scientists are now using the beautician's favourite treatment to restore its sheen. According to officials, packs of multani mitti (Fuller's earth) will be applied to large parts of the Taj and left to dry overnight. Once it dries, the mud pack will flake off, taking with it layers of dirt and grime. The marble will then be washed with distilled water. This treatment, officials claim, will reverse some of the discolouration the Taj has suffered over the years.

THE QUEEN OF TERMINALS

Singapore's Changi may have won the best airport award this year, but it could face a formidable new competitor in 2015. The gates of the sparkling new Heathrow Airport terminal have finally opened, capping off an £11 billion investment over the last decade. Terminal 2, or The Queen's Terminal, will cater to as many as 26 airlines, 23 of which are Star Alliance members, and handle 20 million passengers. When fully operational, the terminal will operate 332 daily flights to 54 global destinations.

ONCE UPON A DINING POD

What's the height of fine dining? Well, this could just be what you are looking for — if you aren't too susceptible to vertigo, that is. Located on the remote Thai island of Kood, the tree pod dining facility at the Six Senses' Soneva Kiri brings what is arguably the most novel way to enjoy a romantic dinner or a lazy lunch amid the treetops. Situated

The hanging pods at Soneva Kiri scale new heights in luxury dining ▲

16 feet (5 metres) above the ground, the dining pod is surrounded by lush tree tops and beautiful sandy beaches. You don't have to worry about accidents either — the pod is constructed with a rigid frame wrapped in woven rattan and can easily accommodate up to four diners. The food and drinks are delivered by a "flying" waiter, harnessed to a zip-line. Tarzan of the Apes, anyone?

FIVE TIPS FOR BETTER FLYING

These days, arriving two hours before boarding time just isn't enough. Here are some tips for getting you to your aircraft seat as soon as possible.

- Check the flight status before leaving home. Most airlines do text flight status updates, but it's something you can't take for granted.
- If the facility is available, check in online. This will save you the trouble of standing in a long queue.
- Put all your travel documents in the most accessible part of your bag. Last-minute confusion is best avoided.
- Get somebody else to drive you to avoid unnecessary parking hassles.
- Download mobile apps that may help; there are hundreds of them for various purposes – from locating restrooms to sending an online SOS to your agent.

APP CORNER

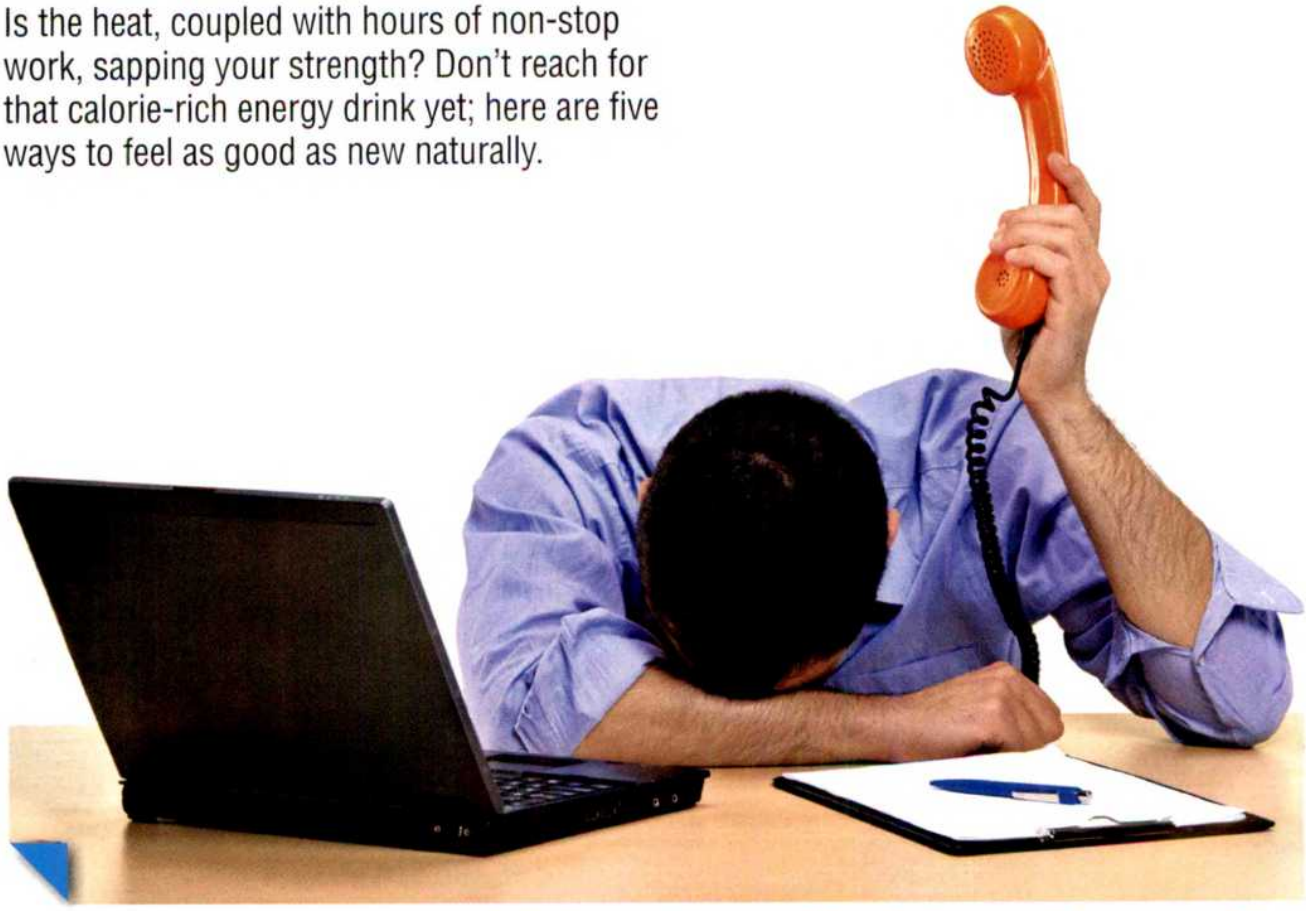
Uber

Price Free

Stuck in the middle of nowhere, willing to sell your kingdom for a cab? Let Uber be your shining knight. This app lets you choose from different kinds of taxi services, from regular to luxury, no matter which continent you are in. Don't worry about the bill coming as a shocker either, because it gives you a basic idea of how much you will be forking out at the end of the trip.

Click Refresh

Is the heat, coupled with hours of non-stop work, sapping your strength? Don't reach for that calorie-rich energy drink yet; here are five ways to feel as good as new naturally.



Too tired to rise up to the occasion? A few alterations in your lifestyle can change that ▲

Watch what you eat

If you think you are eating right, here's news. There's a big difference between crunching calories to lose weight and dieting to better your health. Eating plenty of protein helps keep fatigue away, especially early in the day when your cortisol levels are high. Try eggs, a slice of ham and less carb-rich food.

Clean out that gut

Energy levels are tied to the health of your gastrointestinal tract. So if you feel tired or bloated frequently, you may want to get your gut in shape. For starters, keep off liquor for two to four weeks and drink lots of water. Avoid diet colas too — pro-inflammatory artificial sweeteners can be worse than calories.

Beat insomnia

To sleep well, it's important that you enhance your 'bedroom hygiene'. You could start by showing that television the door. Chuck those fancy lights, and hang up heavy curtains to ensure that you are not disturbed by daylight. Also, go to bed and get up at the same time every day to streamline your body clock.

The sex solution

Frequent sex, with oodles of affection poured in, is one of the best things you can do to increase your health and get rid of fatigue. Why, you ask? It stimulates brain function, burns calories, increases oxygenation, boosts immunity and relieves stress and depression. Start your day with some good ol' love, and you will never fall short of energy.

Get your thyroid checked

Well, this may not seem as exciting as making love, but that does not discount the fact that hypothyroidism can cause nightmares, anxiety, mood swings, weight gain, impaired concentration and severe fatigue. Fix an appointment.

Shall We Dance?

Tired of jogging? Here are some dance forms that will tone your body in a fun way, and impress the ladies too!

Ballroom Beat

That's right! Ballroom dancing strengthens the muscles in the calves, thighs and buttocks, and improves your balance. In fact, half an hour of ballroom dancing can help you burn anywhere between 200 and 400 calories.

Two to Tango

The rhythm of music in tango changes all the time - which is why it requires good balance, posture and alignment. Also, as the knees are usually bent in this dance form, it ends up firming up the legs and core.

Salsa Seduction

Salsa is a great way to burn calories, and a social alternative to the gym. The rigorous sequences tone your body while the moves, which includes holding still for long periods, improve your strength and posture.

Street Smart

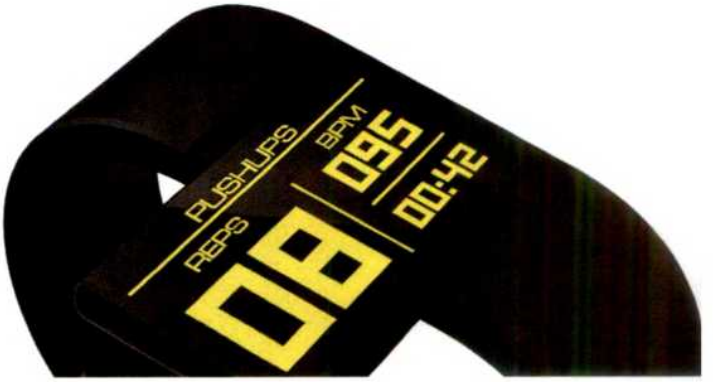
A high-energy form of exercise, street dancing is what they call a "truly fantastic all-rounder". It makes you use every area of your body, improves your strength and balance, and gives you a rock-hard tummy.

Swing Along

Feel like something more retro? Swing dancing, ideal for couples looking to learn a dance form together, is sure to get your calories burning. What's more, it helps you with your breathing too!

Go Bollywood

Dancing to Bollywood tunes can be as good a workout of the physique as that of the senses. Do a classic Shammi from 'Kashmir Ki Kali' or a mind-boggling Hrithik from 'Laksh' - the choice is yours!



Atlas Fitness Tracker

ANOTHER GLORIFIED PEDOMETER, DID YOU SAY? BUT no – though Atlas Fitness Tracker may seem like a fitness band at first sight, it houses a very different soul beneath its shell. For one, the waterproof wrist-tech device collects data on your workouts and evaluates your form. It even counts reps, and is smart enough to know what kind of activity you're doing. If you are a swimming enthusiast, it can tell the difference between freestyle, breast-stroke and backstroke. In a nutshell, it's AI on your wrist!

Price: ₹13,700 (approx)

Breaststroke Eats

From Men's Health

While swimming can be a great all-round workout, it is important to eat well to get the right benefits. A look:

-60 Mins **JACKET POTATO WITH TUNA**

Unprocessed carbohydrates from the potato drop your chances of getting an upset stomach during the swim. They should be fully digested by the time you dive in. The tuna? If you want to swim like a shark, eat like one.

IN SESSION **WATER**

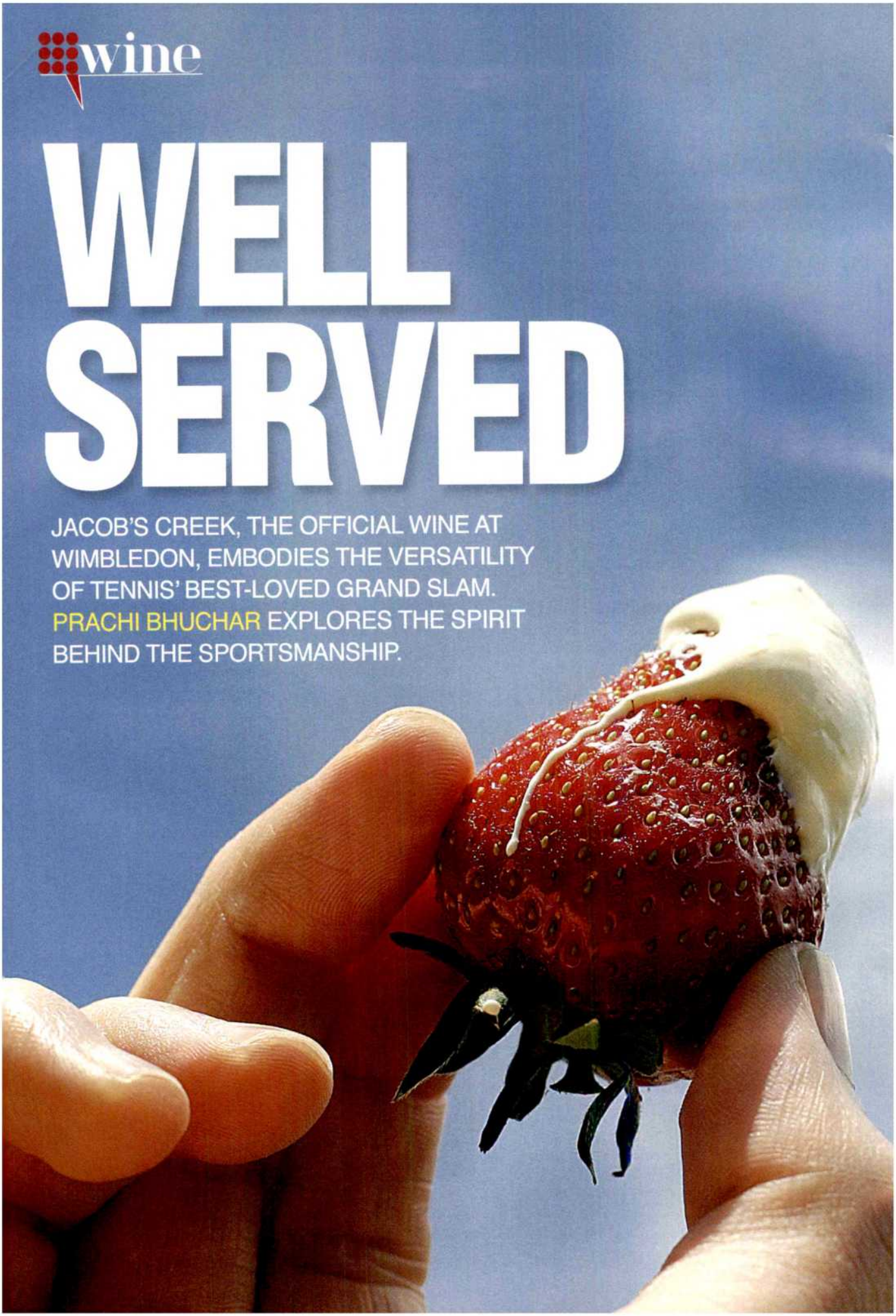
You lose fluid when swimming but don't notice it because you're already drenched. Keep a bottle at the side of the pool and drink four big gulps of water for every 400m you swim, to keep your hydration levels up.

+10 Mins **NUTRIGRAIN CEREAL BAR**

With swimming knocking off so many calories per hour, the sugar in the bar is the quickest way to bring your energy levels back to normal...and satisfy your sweet tooth too.

WELL SERVED

JACOB'S CREEK, THE OFFICIAL WINE AT WIMBLEDON, EMBODIES THE VERSATILITY OF TENNIS' BEST-LOVED GRAND SLAM. PRACHI BHUCHAR EXPLORES THE SPIRIT BEHIND THE SPORTSMANSHIP.



It has glints of the grass in its pale-ale complexion; a thousand strands of flax burnt in the sun and bottled. A swig of sparkling sunshine later, you are in love with the Jacob's Creek Wimbledon blend, which is a blend of white grape varieties — Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling and Pinot Grigio, with a dash of White Frontignan. Making it even more attractive is the exclusivity; you can't buy it anywhere, the wine can only be savoured at the hospitality marquee at the game.

I can't believe I am at Wimbledon with the special blend in hand, watching Federer and Djokovic put up a mean show. Every year, this is where royalty happily rubs shoulders with Hollywood, other athletes, musicians and anybody who is a somebody. Here at Wimbledon, sport and excess hook up to create the year's biggest 'It' event.

When Wimbledon arrives in England, you know the season has turned. The smell of freshly cut grass, the promise of strawberries fresh from Kent and sunshine, bare feet, hats, red-sole heels, shorts, Burberry, wine—all the trappings of an extraordinary British summer.

Chasing the Wimbledon dream is a brand that's the official wine of the tournament: Jacob's Creek. Bringing a touch of Australian whimsy and lassitude to the game for four years running, it represents a perfect marriage between the two. Wine spitzers line a neat tray waiting to be picked up as we make our way into the Jacob's Creek hospitality marquee before the game. We are pleased as punch as the hint of wine, crushed ice and sweetness hits our throat. Much like the event, the wine brings about a sense of freedom and indulgence and, depending on who's drinking it, plays all tunes ranging from bohemian rhapsody to Tchaikovsky. Versatility defines this wine and the game.

The special 'all white' edition Wimbledon wine has lined the shelves at supermarkets across Britain all of June, and is a worthy piece of memorabilia; it also helps that it tastes so darn good. Made from grapes grown in Australia's Barossa valley, the chardonnay is easy on the tongue, its velvety fragrance reminiscent of the valley. Its pale straw hue with flecks of green is also the perfect accompaniment to the staple strawberries and cream that have come to be regarded as one of Wimbledon's rituals and a symbol of all that's quintessentially English. The chardonnay works well if you want to taste some sunshine while sitting courtside, but if the allure of the red is greater, the shiraz is an eager pleaser without being too rich or heavy with tasting notes of spicy berry, hints of dark chocolate and decadence. The chardonnay pinot noir NV is a favourite and works like a charm, the bubbles fraught with pre-game excitement and nerves.

Jacob's Creek wine maker takes us on a quick journey from vineyard to glass as we tuck into the goodness of Severn and Wye oak smoked salmon blini with poached salmon mousse and roast Lan-

THE CHARDONNAY WORKS WELL IF YOU WANT TO TASTE SOME SUNSHINE SITTING COURTSIDE. BUT IF YOU PREFER THE RED, OPT FOR THE SHIRAZ

cashire fillet of beef, served with balsamic pickled onions and horseradish cream. To complement this delightful meal, we go the entire range from the red Sangiovese to the 2011 Reserve Barossa Shiraz. The 2012 Reserve Reisling and the 2013 Fiano lead the whites, but I am smitten by the Wimbledon blend — which has the right amount of sparkle. The meal polished off, we make our way to our seats to watch the nail-biter unfold.

Wimbledon is all things English, and the dapper crowds are some of the more restrained cheer parties I have ever encountered. Silence and hushed moans of disappointment aside, the spectators measure their passion in wine-sized glasses and are never unruly. Halfway through the third set, when it looks like all is lost for Federer, a round of Jacob's Creek wine coolers are passed around, glasses iced to the rim and filled with wine and elderflower. The drink eases the blow and ignites some summer loving.

It is evident that the brand has found a comfortable spot in England. Four years into its association with Wimbledon, it is a wine that's equally at home in the Royal Box as the stands outside, where picnic baskets laden with the choicest goodies are chased by a glass or two of this Australian delight.

As Federer turns away desolate after Djokovic is crowned king, we head to the marquee for our last hurrah. An English tea of scones, clotted cream, strawberries and bite-size sandwiches awaits us. I instinctively reach for the crimson JC instead of Earl Grey, the shiraz rounding off the day in a way tea cannot hope to emulate. Tea may be the national drink of England, but it's only in wine that the agony and ectasy of Wimbledon finds a befitting embodiment.

FOUR YEARS INTO ITS ASSOCIATION WITH WIMBLEDON, JACOB'S CREEK IS THE PREFERRED DRINK FOR MANY AT THE ENGLISH GRAND SLAM ARENA

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DGTCP, Haryana has granted License Number 106 & 107 dated 26.12.2013 to the developer, Sarv Realtors Pvt Ltd (100% subsidiary of Supertech Ltd) for Group Housing scheme on 27.493 acres. Approved building plans Memo No ZP-957/SD(BS)/2014/8469 dated 30/4/14. Total number of units 2092, total number of EWS units 372. Provision of primary school, nursery schools, shopping centre, community building. All the approvals can be seen in the office of the developer.

*Conditions apply. All buildings, information, specification, etc. are tentative and subject to variation and modification by the company or the competent authorities sanctioning such plans. Images are for representative purpose only. *1 sq. mtr. is equal to 10.76 sq. ft.

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Hold your Breath

Going about your office presentation like a zombie? Grossed a girl out with bad breath? Watch what you eat!

TEXT BY SAURAV BHANOT

Life could become a downhill ride unless you acknowledge that food does play a major part in how things play out.

AT WORK, EXCESSIVE STRESS wreaks havoc on your meetings and presentations, making the pink slip seem just a day away. Out on a date, a lethal combination of bad breath and perspiration sends the girl scurrying for the nearest cab. It seems like things can't get any worse, can they?

Unfortunately, they can — unless you acknowledge the fact that food does play a major part in how your life plays out, and take corrective steps on a war footing. Some tips on eating habits that will help keep your personal as well as professional life on track.

Excessive Sweating

Do your friends call you "Mister Perspiration" behind your back? Considering that women usually find sweat patches on men a big turn off, it's time you did something about it. The next time you're on a date, avoid ordering red meat or anything high on spice and hydrogenated oil that may stimulate your sweat glands. Skipping coffee may help too. Opt for vegetarian fare or lean meats, and gorge on grapes — if possible — to cool your body. Time for a stressful business meeting? Down a glass of fresh tomato juice as a last-minute fix; tomatoes contain anti-oxidants that simply detest sweat.

Bloating

Contrary to popular opinion, bloating isn't caused by excess water in your body, but the lack of it. A result of natural gases building up in your gut, you should turn to watermelon, celery (which controls intestinal gas), and a pinch of rosemary in your tea to combat this. If you keep a poorly stocked larder, try a cup of yoghurt, or a glass of warm water infused with lemon early in the morning.

Fatigue

Given our hectic lifestyle, we almost always end up appearing haggard and tired at important meetings. Also, if you turn up at a date looking like something the cat dragged in, the object of your affection will definitely show you the door. Well, all's not lost, as far as your energy needs are concerned. Try munching on chia seeds, which have plenty of complex carbohydrates and omega-3s. Whipping up eggs is a good option, and so are beans. For a last-minute energy booster, have a tall glass of milk — it has enough protein and carbs to keep you going the entire day.

Bad Breath

Everybody knows that gobbling onions or garlic just before a dinner date is the social equivalent of committing hara-kiri. But if bad breath has been a perennial problem for you, you could have a much bigger issue on your hands. So, what should you eat? Experts say adding probiotic yoghurt, basil, spinach, cherries and apples (which have anti-bacterial properties) to your diet can work wonders. Also, drink more water. In most cases, water helps flush down food particles and bacteria that cause bad breath in your mouth.

Stress

While getting the jitters before a major event is absolutely normal, stressing too much isn't a great idea either. Avocados, thanks to their bland texture, cool your stomach and soothe your nerves. Asparagus, being high in folate, helps you keep calm too. Berries, cashews and walnuts — with their high antioxidant levels — effectively combat stress, and a cup of green or chamomile tea can also work wonders with your nerves. Want something sinful instead? Try some mood-lifting chocolate and breathe easy!

CRASH THAT DIET

Fad diets come and go. If you're wondering which one is for you, let these nutritionists show the way.

TEXT BY ANINDITA SATPATHI

WEIGHING SCALES GIVING YOU GRIEF YET AGAIN? With 'you are what you eat' becoming the mantra for thousands of hopefuls seeking to shed a few extra pounds, food has been at the receiving end of misplaced abuse and adulation. Some take it to the extreme, letting tapeworms into their bodies or chewing on cotton balls to emerge victorious in their battle against the bulge, while others just walk the traditional path and cock a snook at anything remotely calorie-laden. And then there are diet plans that get by on celebrity endorsements, outrageous as they may appear.

But hey, are we being too quick to dismiss every diet we hear about, relegating even the effective ones to the bottom of the heap? Here we feature four diets that may seem over-the-top, but have translated into success stories for many. However, think it through before you take the plunge — will you be doing your body more harm than good?

BLOOD TYPE DIET

If vampires were health-conscious and gullible, they would be highly impressed with a diet that supposedly prevents the agglutination of lectins and makes your blood purer, and well, more palatable. Agglutination what, you ask? It forms the core of naturopath James D'Adamo's theory that diverse proteins — lectins — found in food not suited to your blood type can clog micro-areas of blood flow and cause tissue damage. Agglutination refers to the propensity of lectins to stick together and accumulate over days, ultimately inducing micro-infarctions of the brain, heart, kidneys and lungs. The food you eat may contain proteins incompatible with your blood type antigen, which is why you should pick out evolutionarily appropriate food. While the concept is interesting, we think it's a little harsh on Type A blood people — who are expected to subsist solely on veggies and seafood. The ones with Type AB, who need to avoid alcohol and caffeine like the plague, have it tough too.

ExpertSpeak

Dr Anju Sood
Clinical nutritionist

Very restrictive. Asking people with Type B to avoid all nuts is a case in point. Eliminating whole groups of food makes it tough to meet nutrient needs.

Sheela Krishnaswamy
Diet and nutrition consultant

While short term weight loss may be possible through this diet, it can't be sustained in the long run. And there's always the likelihood of the lost weight bouncing back.

GLUTEN-FREE DIET

Unless you are gluten-intolerant, this diet could seem somewhat like a disciplinarian aunt who raps your knuckles every time you reach for the cookie jar. Touted as the next cool thing for the obsessive waistline-watcher, eating gluten-free is the avant garde style statement that everyone's scrambling to make their own. But while gluten is toxic to those suffering from celiac disease, wherein the small intestine has trouble digesting foods rich in the protein composite, it's certainly not the health hazard it is made out to be for the tolerant rest. A gluten-free diet prescribes cutting out wheat-based ingredients from meals and loading up on fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, dairy, beans and legumes. But, if you're just bingeing on gluten-free products instead of focussing on clean eating and portion-control, weight loss will still be an elusive goal. However, if gastrointestinal distress is what you're worried about, by all means take the plunge.

ExpertSpeak

Dr Ishi Khosla
Clinical nutritionist

If practised prudently, this is a workable and effective strategy. But again, simply going gluten-free will not work if the diet does not control the intake of starch.

Sheela Krishnaswamy
Diet and nutrition consultant

Gluten-free diet, as the name suggests, is meant for people who cannot tolerate gluten. Unfortunately, it's being misused as a 'weight loss' strategy.

BABY FOOD DIET

Having that occasional spoonful of baby food in an effort to inspire your toddler to swallow one more mouthful is one thing, but subsisting primarily on mulch is another. The baby food diet prescribes 14 jars of prepacked baby foods a day to keep hunger at bay. A few jars of fruit, vegetable and meat puree are usually enough to scare enthusiasts off this diet and back to their quinoa and parsley salads, but making baby food a diet staple has some obvious benefits. It gradually notches up the calories you need without loading up on sugar, sodium and preservatives. Portion control can be your best friend when you're on a diet and this one claims to do just that. Replace your meals and snacks with baby food, which is also easier on the stomach because it's less refined. You will crave texture, becoming perpetually hungry and irritable to the point of hating the very sight of baby food, but it's worth a shot if you want to maintain your newly slimmed physique. This short-span, weight loss-maintenance diet plan, however, has one silver lining. After ploughing through jars of the icky stuff, you get to have a normal dinner that makes you appreciate the joy of masticating anew. But, resist the temptation to binge on that meal.

ExpertSpeak

Shalini Manglani
Nutritionist and weight management expert

Miniscule portion sizes with negligible amounts of fibre is a nutritionally unsound diet plan. Moreover, weight loss needs to be systematic, not drastic.

Dr Anju Sood
Clinical nutritionist

This diet isn't safe if you don't get enough calories every day; even a low calorie diet requires a minimum number of calories to meet your metabolic rate.

IF IT FITS YOUR MACROS (IIFYM)

You're on the verge of squeezing anything into your macros as long as you can fit into that grey t-shirt from your college days — the one that flattered your biceps charmingly — but are you up for relentless measuring of the food you eat? The diet that whittles science down to a candy stick prescribes a breakdown of your macronutrients combined with heavy weight training, to turn into a hunk. The carbohydrate, protein and fat component of what you eat, measured in calories, makes up your macros. The total daily energy expenditure calculator makes you a slave to weighing and measuring everything that goes on your plate. Blooming in response to the excesses of clean eating zealots who junk every prepackaged product and carb-heavy goodies, this diet has its basics down pat. Optimising your macronutrient intake means you have the power to make a choice between pizza and sautéed veggies just as long as you meet your macro and fibre goal. Followers boast of great metabolism, a shredded physique and the energy of a puppy, but the micronutrient part of your diet — calcium, potassium, iron and antioxidants — might just be getting neglected. Then again, on the bright side, you'll be motivated to work out.

ExpertSpeak

Dr Ishi Khosla
Clinical nutritionist

Weight loss without attention to nutrition is a short-term goal achievement, wherein you might rebound and lapse into unhealthy eating habits.

Shalini Manglani
Nutritionist, weight management expert

Understand and use the plan to get shredded, but consciously stay away from junk. Pick healthy options for each macro and familiarise yourself with the phone app.

The Wild Bru

With several restaurants across our metros warming up to the concept of brunch, Sunday afternoons are never going to be the same. BY SOURISH BHATTACHARYYA

WE HAVE BECOME USED TO A BRUNCH PHILOSOPHY that deifies excess. Even the central idea of a brunch, which is an extended breakfast, has been re-defined to mean an endless, excessive lunch. Just about everything a hotel or a restaurant has to offer is laid out on buffet counters for guests to tuck into, with endless accompanying pours of bubbly and martinis, the dishes getting replenished as they get consumed. It's almost like an industrial assembly line, though no one minds, because all of us believe we are getting our money's worth. But are we?

Ask people in the food and beverage business and they'll say brunches are designed keeping in mind the limitations of the human appetite. It is not possible for regular people, unless they have unimaginably stretchable stomachs, to digest more than 250-450 gm of food per meal. The 'industrial brunch', therefore, lets you delude yourself into thinking that you have endless choices, although you eat only what you would normally do and pay as you would for a regular meal on any other day that you choose to patronise the establishment. Fortunately for the dining public, restaurants across cities are moving away from the predictable, and pumping new life into a Sunday habit that is getting hugely popular in the metropolitan cities.

nch

ive Bar & Kitchen, umbai

n't think of a more romantic setting a laidback Sunday brunch that does ice to the grand vision of Guy inger, who recommended it as an idote to Sunday morning hangovers his 1895 essay, *Brunch: A Plea*. ated in the serene, leafy expanse of Amateur Riders Club at the halaxmi Racecourse, the restaurant ms straight out of the Italian ntryside. And you get to spend an ernoon next to a stable of purebred ses. Complement the rustic look h the sense of mystery and icipation that a pop-up restaurant ngs to a venue. For some time, Olive halaxmi has been playing host to the d and charms of Goa's Greek erna, Thalassa, with owner-chef riketty Grana lavishing on Mumbai brand of "cooking with love". The e of freshly baked pita bread, ussaka and tender roast lamb made ve Mahalaxmi the go-to place for ry bon vivant who either lives in mbai, or passes by. Come August, vacuum left by Thalassa will be d up by Olive founder-partner A D gh's youngest brainchild, Guppy by the Japanese restaurant that has wed Delhi with its California rolls, nature pork belly and wild shroom gyoza. These temptresses l ensure Olive Mahalaxmi's tables cleaned up by brunchaholics almost soon as they are replenished. Dig in!

HERE Amateur Riders Club, halaxmi Race Course, Mumbai
HEN 12 noon to 4 pm
R PERSON ₹1,850 (with alcohol)
LL (022) 33487711

Indigo, Mumbai

You can't talk about Sunday brunches and not mention Indigo, the original purveyor of the idea about a dozen years ago. Yes, it's a chafing dish brunch, so you may wonder what makes it special. But then, it has atmosphere (who can beat Indigo's ambience and the charm of a live jazz band), it has class (unlimited pours of Billecart-Salmon champagne and not your everyday supermarket brand), and it offers variety (the small plates and bowls keep changing every Sunday and the entrees are cooked a la minute). The dishes are not your usual brunch kind, though you can't miss the eggs benedict or the long-time favourite — Create Your Own Omelette!

My favourites among the entrees: seared mushrooms, spinach and gruyere lasagne with charred tomato sauce; risotto with prawns, squids and mussel with olive tapenade; smoked scarmoza, pinenut and sun-dried tomato ravioli with chive cream and braised greens; and chili and garlic linguini with leeks, fennel and capers. Sadly, you can only have one, but no such portion control applies to the grills, so go for the cracked cumin rubbed grilled chicken, peppered minute steak with or without fried egg, or cilantro rubbed king prawns with wasabi dressing. It's impossible to have a disappointing Sunday at Indigo.

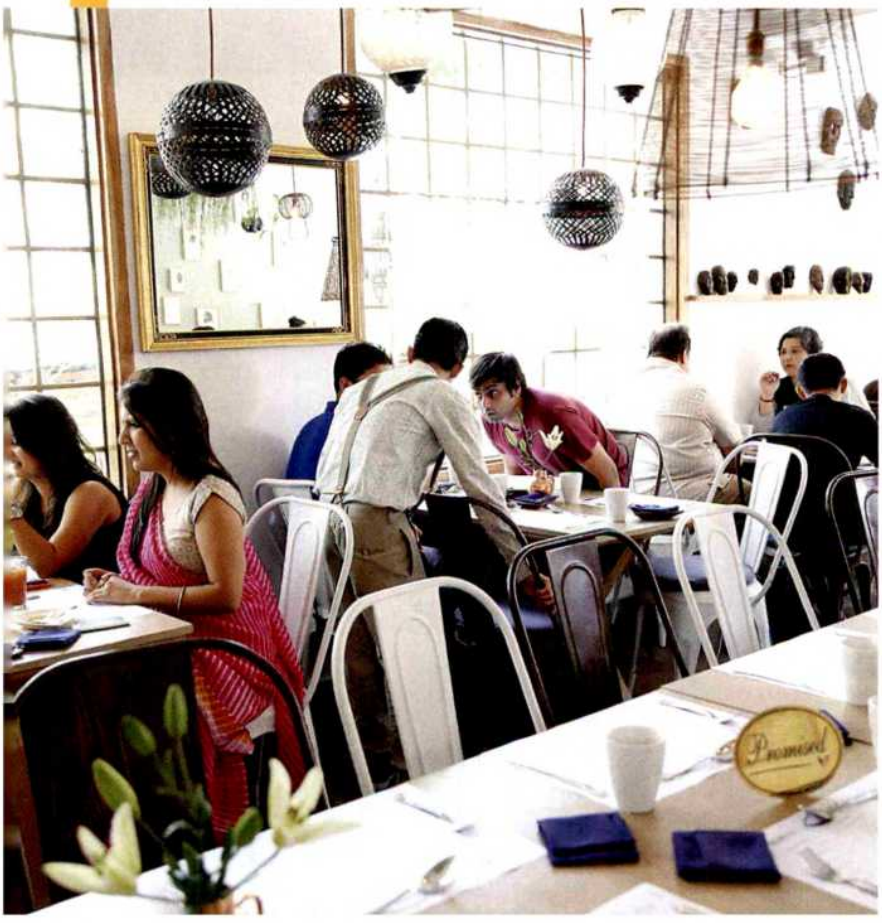
WHERE 4, Mandlik Road, Apollo Bandar, Colaba, Mumbai
WHEN 12 noon to 4 pm
PER PERSON ₹2,100 (with alcohol)
CALL (022) 66368981/80/99

Chez Nini, Delhi

Chez Nini's Sunday brunch goes against the *paisa vasool* mindset by letting each guest order one dish at a time from the menu of the day. It means you can have an endless a la carte meal delivered at your table, washed down with the abundance of sangrias and smoothies, spiked with dates and honey. Feel a little too lazy? Awaken yourself with the aroma of the Blue Tokai coffee blend from Coorg, roasted exclusively for the French and fashionable Chez Nini. As your red wine sangria gives you an early afternoon alcohol rush, ask for the watermelon salad, loaded with creamy feta and grated hazelnuts, before moving on to the French onion soup that comes with a blob of Himalayan gouda sitting on a crispy toast. Want more? Call for the soft poached eggs served on a bed of sauteed spinach, bay leaf foam and crispy onion. The portions are generous.

With your hunger temporarily assuaged but not your curiosity, order the eggs benedict that come on gluten-free brioche, generously lashed with hollandaise and accompanied by seared slices of pork belly (divine!). Or go for the rosemary pumpkin pasta au gratin, which is a tribute to the umami powers of parmesan. Or, better still, settle for my favourite: fish burger served on a multi-grain sourdough bun with okra fries, tartare sauce and salsa verde. Each dish comes with a twist, on wooden platters in diverse shapes, cooked a la minute and served at carefully calibrated intervals.

WHERE 79 & 80, Meher Chand Market, Lodi Colony, New Delhi
WHEN 11.30 am to 4 pm
PER PERSON ₹2,500 (with unlimited cocktails)
CALL (91) 9650257451



Diva Kitsch, Delhi

Everyone loves eggs benedict, but what if the hollandaise comes spiked with penang curry? That's the Diva Kitsch touch to the Sunday brunch. It's different because it doesn't complicate life, and comes with an assured supply of endless prosecco. Let the Italian bubbles tease your palate and build up anticipation as you await the steady procession of dim sums being directed towards your table — my favourites are the ones with Chinese greens and water chestnuts, wild mushrooms, chilli pork and the heavenly five-spice beef.

After you've had your fill of dim sums, you are invited to choose one of the many mains listed out on the page-long menu. Eggs benedict apart, you could opt for the breakfast platter with three eggs cooked in three different ways, or look at life beyond eggs — check out the flavourful udon noodles and laksa curry, or the pumpkin water chestnut and litchi curry with unpolished rice (believe me, you'll love it!), or the spice chicken roulade served with sake-drunk noodles, or the Asian-style beef topped with a fried egg, served (here's the twist) on a flaky Malabar parantha. The dessert platter is a temptress and, like everything else, comes with a twist. Anyone up for some jaggery creme brulee? You can get it only at Diva Kitsch!

WHERE D-17, First Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi
WHEN 12 noon to 4 pm
PER PERSON ₹1,850 (with alcohol)
CALL (011) 40648861

Capital Eats

Delhi may not be the gourmet capital of India but, with international chains and new concept restaurants testing the city's belly, it's slowly getting there.

Must-Haves
Emperor rolls, tuna tataki, hibachi lamb and chicken lunch
Meal for Two
₹2,500, plus taxes
Address
R5, Lower Ground Floor, Epicuria Food Mall, Nehru Place, New Delhi.
Phone
011-26488884

Food Drama, Japanese Style
Benihana

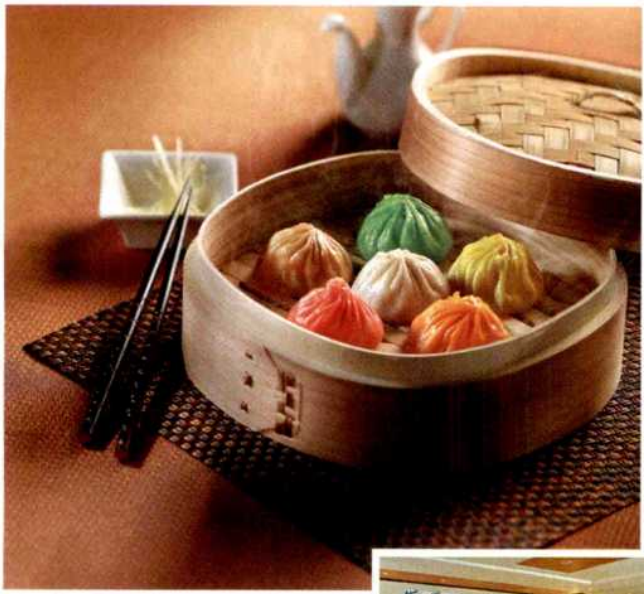
If you love drama, why complain if your meal comes with some histrionics too? Challenging the notion that Japanese meals are meant to be a quiet affair, the highlight of Benihana in Nehru Place is a live teppanyaki grill at your table — complete with a chef displaying his knife-juggling skills while interacting with customers. If you have kids with you, be assured that they will come away thrilled!

Benihana, meaning red flower, has a flagship restaurant in Tokyo and over 100 franchises across the world — including one in India. Tucked away in a corner of the busy Epicuria food court in Nehru Place, the restaurant boasts of unpretentious Japanese food served by well-trained attendants. The sashimi appetiser — a combination of salmon, tuna and snapper — is a good starting point before you move on to the well-crafted sushi rolls. Try the emperor roll, comprising salmon, tuna and tempura flakes topped with tobiko and house sauces, or (if you are a vegetarian) the trio seasons roll, which has crunchy asparagus, cream cheese, cucumber and carrots topped with wasabi mayo. All the sushi we tried were true to their origin; the flavours were subtle and clean. The tuna tataki here is also delicious, with slivers of tuna served with a generous portion of ponzu vinaigrette.

Typical fare aside, most people head to Benihana for the set hibachi meals available at both lunch and dinner. This meal comes with onion soup, a house salad served with an aromatic ginger dressing, seasonal vegetables and steamed rice. Pick your meat, seafood, vegetables and sauces, and watch a chef prepare it with style on the teppanyaki located at your table. The menu also sports specialty hibachi dinners, including a fresh prawn starter and imported lamb options. The lounge at Behinana offers happy hours between 3 and 8 pm, where you can get a drink free for each one bought. The cocktails are well executed, with exciting names like dancing geisha, samurai punch and lycheetini. They also have a fine range of finger food to choose from, if you feel like a nibble.

However, keep in mind that the decor at Benihana is understated, and it doesn't believe in localising its cuisine either. Head here only if you crave a taste of Japan.

Text by Prachi Bhuchar



Peking Away with Glee
Crystal Jade

Crystal Jade is as authentic as it gets. Here, nobody messes around with flavours to suit specific palates, and the food is just the way it should be. The interiors of the restaurant, where brown and gold merge with black to provide a rather sophisticated setting, seems to follow the same rule. Neither loud nor subtle; just right!

You must try the multi-flavoured Xiao Long Bao dim-sums here — a specialty, they are colourful, and range from vegetarian to chicken and pork. If you're a pork lover, you can't afford to skip the baked honey BBQ pork pastry. The Peking roast duck comes in two portions — one served like a roll with lemongrass, and the other cooked as part of the main course. While the roll works wonderfully, its cooked variant disappoints. Vegetarians may try the deep fried crispy lotus slices — it does make for a pretty good snack. My main course here included sautéed prawns in spicy sauce, diced chicken with dried chilli and cashewnut, and the second part of the Peking roast duck. The prawns emerged the winner, followed very closely by the rice. For dessert, head straight for the delicious baked coconut tart!

Text by Saurav Bhanot

Must-Haves
Baked honey BBQ pork pastry, baked coconut tart
Meal for Two ₹1,300, plus taxes
Address Ground Floor, Central Plaza Mall, Golf Course Road, Gurgaon
Phone 0124-4001505

Steak your Claim
Porterhaus

Modelled after an all-American steakhouse, complete with a Harley Davidson motorcycle in the window and 80's music playing on the jukebox, Porterhaus at Saket's DLF South Court Mall puts you at ease almost instantly.

Our evening took off with a cocktail called old fashioned and The Animals crooning *House of the Rising Sun* in the backdrop. The drink was just the way it should be — razor-sharp sweet and orange-rind fresh with just a hint of nostalgia — perfectly complementing the haus nachos it was served with.

Next came an orange mojito, served with Jack Daniel lamb skewers. Doused in sauce, the tender chunks of meat were light but potent enough to balance the mocktail's citric punch. The roasted beetroot salad could have been tastier, though.

For mains, I ordered a porterhouse steak, served rare, with a side order of mashed potatoes. Thankfully, they made it exactly like I wanted it — lightly grilled and juicy with a perfectly pink centre, generously covered in red wine sauce. Need I say that it hit the spot just right? Have this one with a lime-spiked Corona and, believe us, it will make for an evening you won't regret.

Text by Jimmy Jacob

Must-Haves
Porterhouse steak, key lime pie
Meal for Two ₹2,500, plus taxes
Address Ground Floor, DLF South Court Mall, Saket, New Delhi
Phone 91-9910971119

An Affair to Remember
The Hiatus

There are two things you need while visiting The Hiatus at Qutab – a few hours of stolen time and a palate willing to experiment. Replete with an enchanting patio and an enviable wine cellar, the restaurant melds luxurious and laid-back in a cocoon of warm hospitality. The evening took off beautifully with a couple of perfectly rendered cocktails, in the form of a bloody mary and mango anise tini. Following closely on its heels was a concoction of hearty flavours, the pumpkin and smoked chicken soup, which paired beautifully with the cheddar crouton.

The main course of bacon wrapped chicken in paprika-infused makhni gravy with saffron pilaf is a must-try. The dish – which melds Indian and Spanish cooking with artistic ease – encases a centre of Manchego cheese, sundried tomatoes and wild mushroom, served with a side of honey glazed vegetables. The cherry on top? Well, there's nothing like a refreshing lemongrass kulfi with raspberry jelly to bring the curtains down on a gastronomic experience for the gods.

Text by Jimmy Jacob

Must-Haves Pumpkin and smoked chicken soup, bacon-wrapped chicken with paprika-infused makhni gravy
Meal for Two ₹3,000, plus taxes
Address Qutab Hotel, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi
Phone 011-33036588

Must-Haves
Szechuan pepper chicken and pok choy dumplings
Meal for Two ₹2,500, plus taxes
Address N-17, Ground Floor, Greater Kailash (GK) 1, New Delhi
Phone 011-65000724-2

Steamy Wonder
Dimcha & Dao

Imaginatively transcending our acquired familiarity with red, green and yellow Thai curry, Dimcha and Dao promises Oriental authenticity with a plethora of herb and seafood-based dishes. Look at its interiors, and you know that the exoticism doesn't end there. Light plays on the architectural elements of the split-level restaurant, done up in earthy hues of brown and red, filtering through intricate Asian lattice work.

We ordered the prawn tom yum soup and its tangy notes were a delightful departure from the usual heavily soy-flavoured concoctions. Of the dumplings sampled, the Szechuan pepper chicken encased in a pok choy leaf was a veritable explosion of flavours. Succulent and fragrant, it had pungent undertones of pok choy beautifully balanced out with slow-cooked chicken.

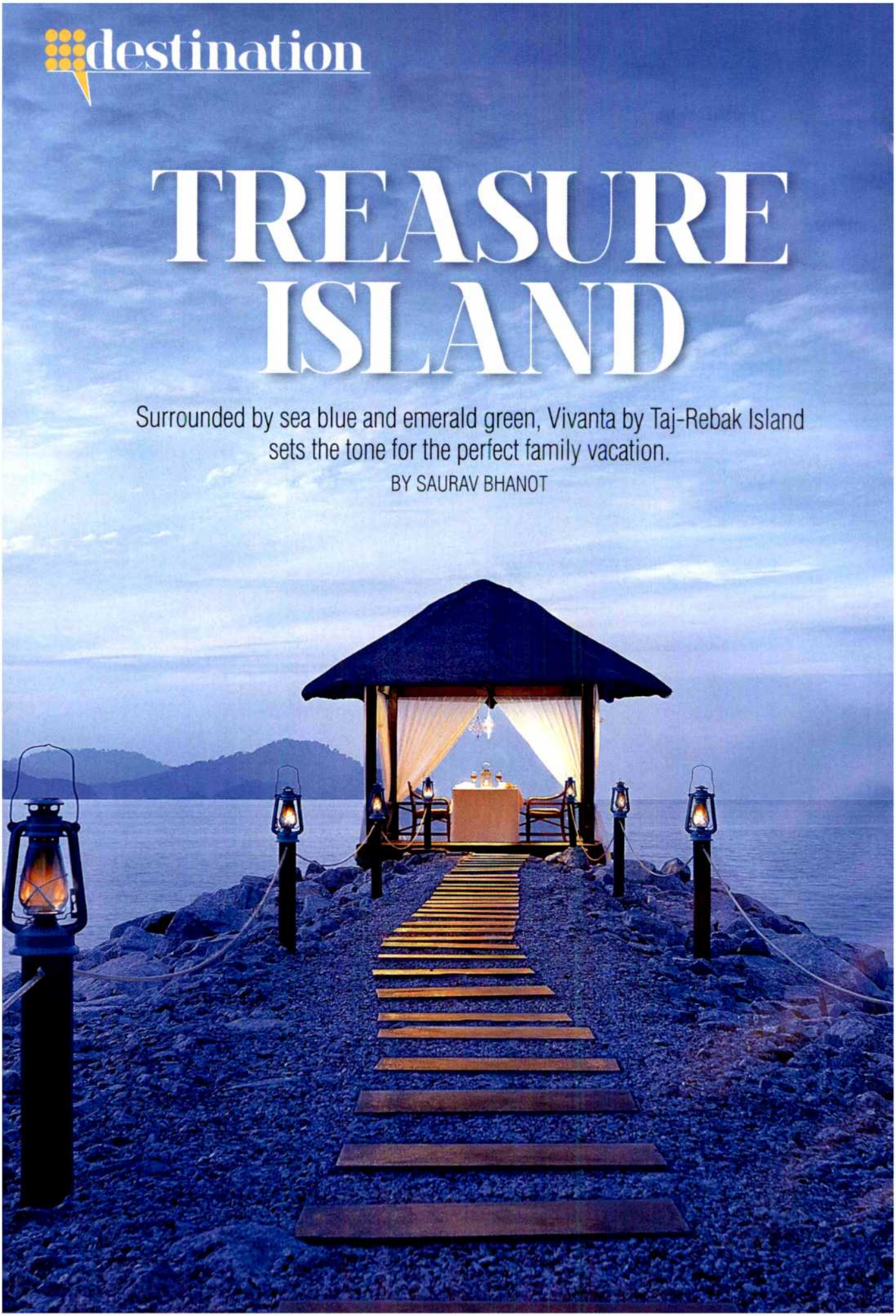
The crispy prawn chunwan was a lightly sweetened rendition crusted over with pepper. Be sure to try the shredded chicken in basil sauce and stir fried chicken with cashew and spring onions for fresh, nutty flavours. The Thai fish curry, however, is a tad too sweet — and could do with some tempering. The coconut ice cream with crumb topping was a fitting end to the meal.

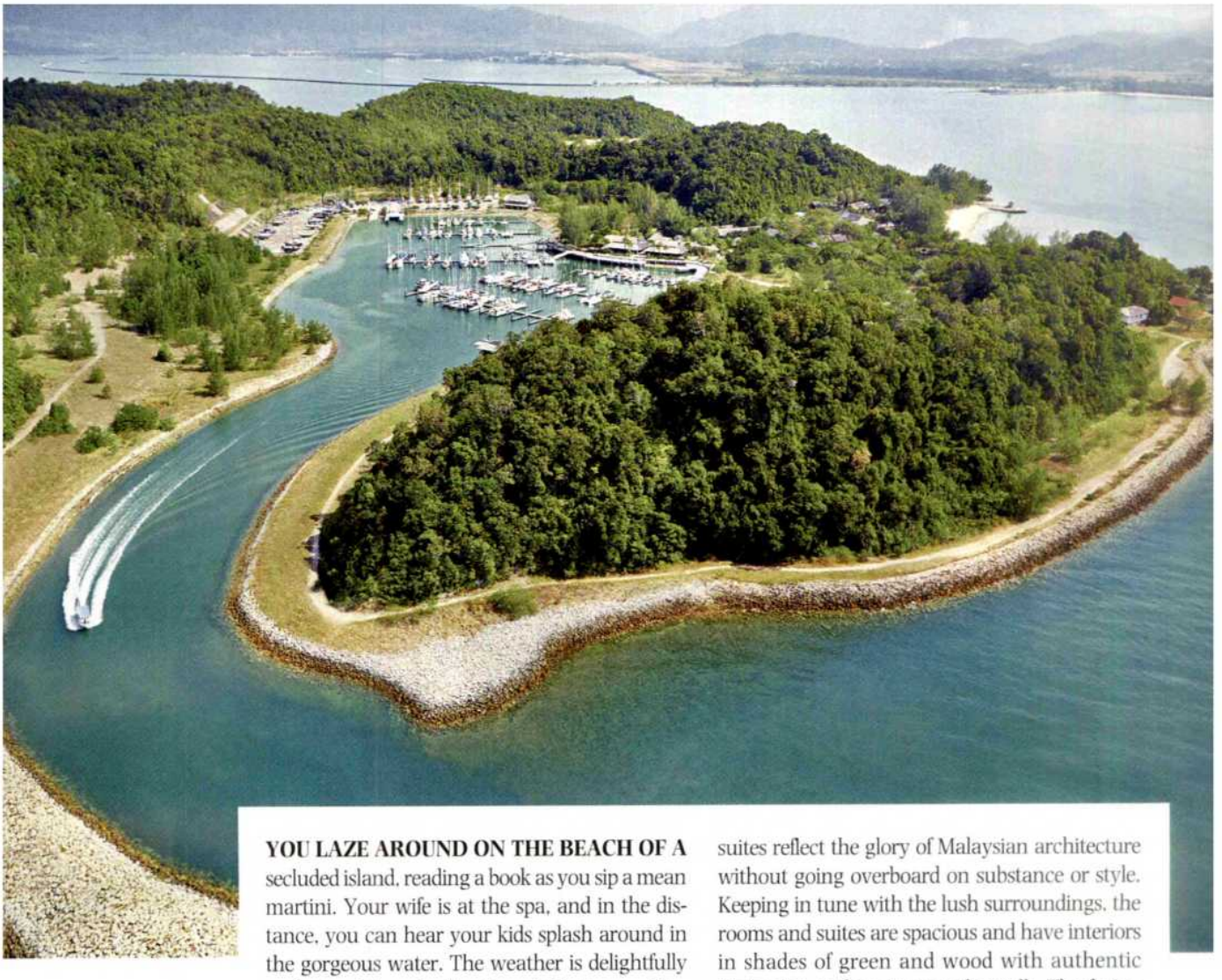
Text by Anindita Satpathi

TREASURE ISLAND

Surrounded by sea blue and emerald green, Vivanta by Taj-Rebak Island sets the tone for the perfect family vacation.

BY SAURAV BHANOT





YOU LAZE AROUND ON THE BEACH OF A secluded island, reading a book as you sip a mean martini. Your wife is at the spa, and in the distance, you can hear your kids splash around in the gorgeous water. The weather is delightfully perfect and there isn't a thought in the world to distract you from the moment.

Isn't this the perfect holiday moment that all of us fantasise about as we hack away at our laptops on a busy work day? Well, it's a dream that can be fulfilled if you get yourself booked at the Vivanta by Taj, Rebak Island, Langkawi, instead. They lay out almost every luxury you can imagine and really know how to push the envelope.

Set on one of the 99 islands that is Langkawi, the Vivanta by Taj property is the sole resident of a 390-acre privately-owned island that has a thick forest cover and interesting rock foundations. This, coupled with a pristine expanse of sand and balmy tropical climate, makes it an exciting travel destination. The focus here is on gently caressing your senses without compromising on the experience. What's more, there is enough happening to keep you and your family occupied and happy on vacation island.

If there's one thing that the Vivanta team does better than most brands, it is the manner in which it fuses luxury with minimal aesthetics. Divided into two blocks — old and new — the rooms and suites reflect the glory of Malaysian architecture without going overboard on substance or style. Keeping in tune with the lush surroundings, the rooms and suites are spacious and have interiors in shades of green and wood with authentic Malaysian art hangings on the walls. The design is contemporary and reminiscent of a modern Malaysian home with all the luxuries you could possibly think of. We recommend you get a room overlooking the beach if you're one of those who likes waking up to a serene view.

The property has all the must-have attributes of a luxury resort — a spa for relaxation; a pool with a view of the beach; a sports complex that lets you dabble in various outdoor sports; a fancy bar, Lepak, serving some exquisite cocktails; and a restaurant, Senari, that serves both international and Malaysian food through the day.

Looking for a little more? You won't be disappointed. The property has its own private marina where people across nationalities — from the Middle East to Australia, Europe and the whole of south-east Asia — come and park their boats for engine maintenance and stay. You'll find these happy travellers lounging around the property, dining at a table right next to yours and enjoying a slice and a sip of the good life. Catch up with them over a drink to hear interesting accounts of long years spent out at sea, and the reasons why

Love in the Air

In the mood for romance? Revisit the good ol' days of yore, when you used to whisk your girl pal to the beach for a blissful dinner date under the stars. You can book a table for two at the Moon Deck, an intimate space deep in the sea approachable only by a pathway. Make the most of the enchantingly luxurious island-like space for a magical evening over some truly good food and intoxicating wine.

While the more laidback in spirit indulge in a three-hour cruise into the sunset, foodies can visit the neighbourhood wet market with chefs from the resort.

they chose the life of a sea dog over that of a regular landlubber. Makes for an interesting evening.

Those familiar with Vivanta properties are acquainted with Vivanta Motifs — some must-do activities when you're checked into a Taj hotel. At Langkawi, these range from nature trails on the property, where an extremely knowledgeable guide takes you on an hour-long expedition in the forest to speedboat mangrove tours to check out bat caves and sting-rays. Exhausted after the long day? Indulge in a three-hour sunset cruise that comes highly recommended. Foodies should try exploring the nearby wet market with the resort's chefs — you actually get to pick your own produce, which can then be prepared at the resort.

Vivanta organises a special party once a week at the property, inviting guests to taste local Malaysian cuisine. Here, you'll find an eclectic range of dishes — from spicy sea food salads to Malaysian versions of meat rolls and a whole bunch of other local dishes with customised spice variants as per your palate. From street food to full-fledged recipes, you'll find them all here as you sit back and enjoy Malaysian dance performances on the beach. Do try the coconut water on offer for its original taste: so different from the ones you find in India. These coconuts are specially brought in from Thailand simply because — and here's a word of caution — the coconuts in Langkawi are apparently bitter!

With gracious staffers, comfortable rooms and a relaxed environment, the property provides the perfect setting for a relaxed vacation with your entire family. Close enough to India to make for a quick getaway, yet far enough to truly feel like an indulgent experience.

Kiddie Fun

Art brings out the best in young ones. If your kids love the paintbrush, Vivanta by Taj has just the thing for them. The resort has tied up with the Atma Alam Batik Art Village, where children as well as grown-ups get a chance to bring out the Picasso in them. But if your children prefer something a tad more thrilling, feel free to go all out on water sports and stingray-feeding as part of the mangrove tour.

Address Vivanta by Taj-Rebak Island, Kuah Langkawi, Kedah Darul Aman, Malaysia.
Phone 604-966-5566
Tariff Luxury Bliss: ₹38,000 a night (approx)
Nirvana Senari Suite: ₹42,000 a night (approx)

top shop

Floral Feet

Florals are in this summer, and that goes for your feet too! These William slippers from Tom Ford are an embodiment of pure decadence. Made of exquisite hand-embroidered silk and adorned with a velvet tassel, this is style at its luxurious best.

Price: On request

Pen Pal

Paying homage to the king of football, the Heritage variant of the Pele Icons Pen Limited Edition features a solid gold or silver trim. The top of the cap is shaped to represent a football, atop a crown that reads 'All Hail The King'. The colours of the Brazilian flag form the surface of the cap in yellow, with green surrounding the crown. Get that kick in your writing!

Price: On request

Leather Luxe

Do not compromise on style even when you're shuttling between places. This Corneliani leather holdall is a great piece to have when you are on the move. Spacious enough to pack all your essentials and dashing enough to up your style quotient, give this a shot on your next vacation.

Price: On request

Spoil your Floor

Carpets have long been the mark of great interiors, and there's nothing more elegant than a classic hand-spun carpet in your living room. Obsessions has brought out the Loribuft range of carpets, which redefines elegance and sophistication. A special hand-spun, all-knotted woollen carpet originating from Afghanistan, it is made of five different kinds of wool. These carpets are exclusively available at the Obsessions store.

Price: ₹50,000-₹2,00,000

Swim in Style

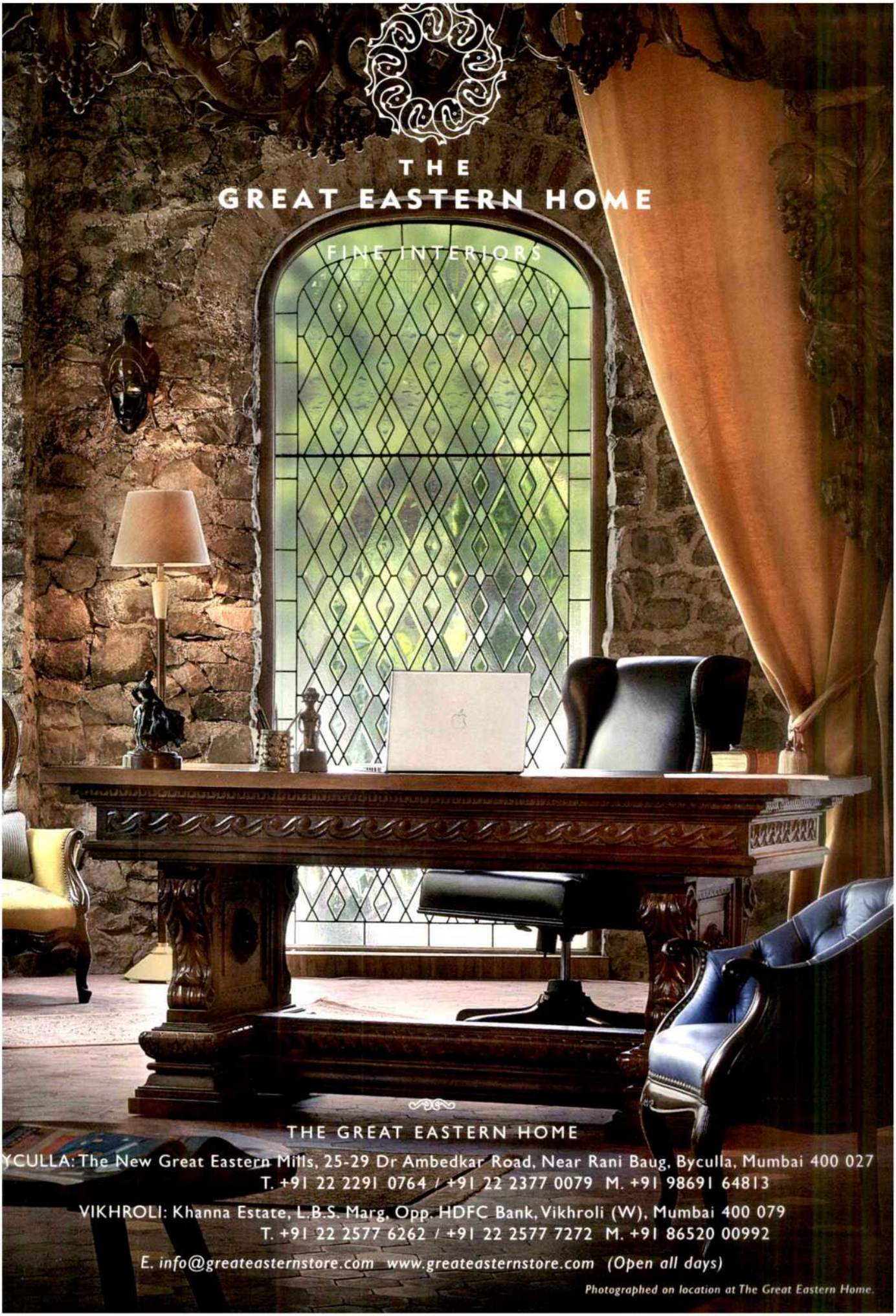
Lazing on the beach or by the poolside isn't about black trunks anymore. Calvin Klein Jeans has come up with a whole new range of trunks to help you in this matter. They are bright, colourful and totally trendy. Whether you are in the water or just chilling outside, grab a pair and get set to turn heads. Who said only girls can have fancy swimsuits?

Price: Starting from ₹2,699

NIGHT WATCH

EVER FANCIED USING A WATCH TO START YOUR CAR? THANKS TO A TIE-UP BETWEEN LUXURY watchmaker Jaegar-LeCoultre and car manufacturer Aston Martin, your wish to play Bond has just come true. The new Jaegar-LeCoultre AMVOX2 Transponder watch is a mechanical-electronic hybrid that lets you lock/unlock the doors of the car with its remote control button, and turn on the headlights as well as start/stop the engine with its keyless access function. All this while looking like a million bucks! Housed in a 44mm-diameter titanium case with sapphire crystals, the watch uses 41 jewels, is 5.65 mm thick, and comes with a 65-hour power reserve. The Transponder's heart — a Calibre 751E — makes the logo spin on its axis as it ticks, and when it stops, you know that the watch has stopped too. Now, how's that for handy!

Price: ₹12.46 lakh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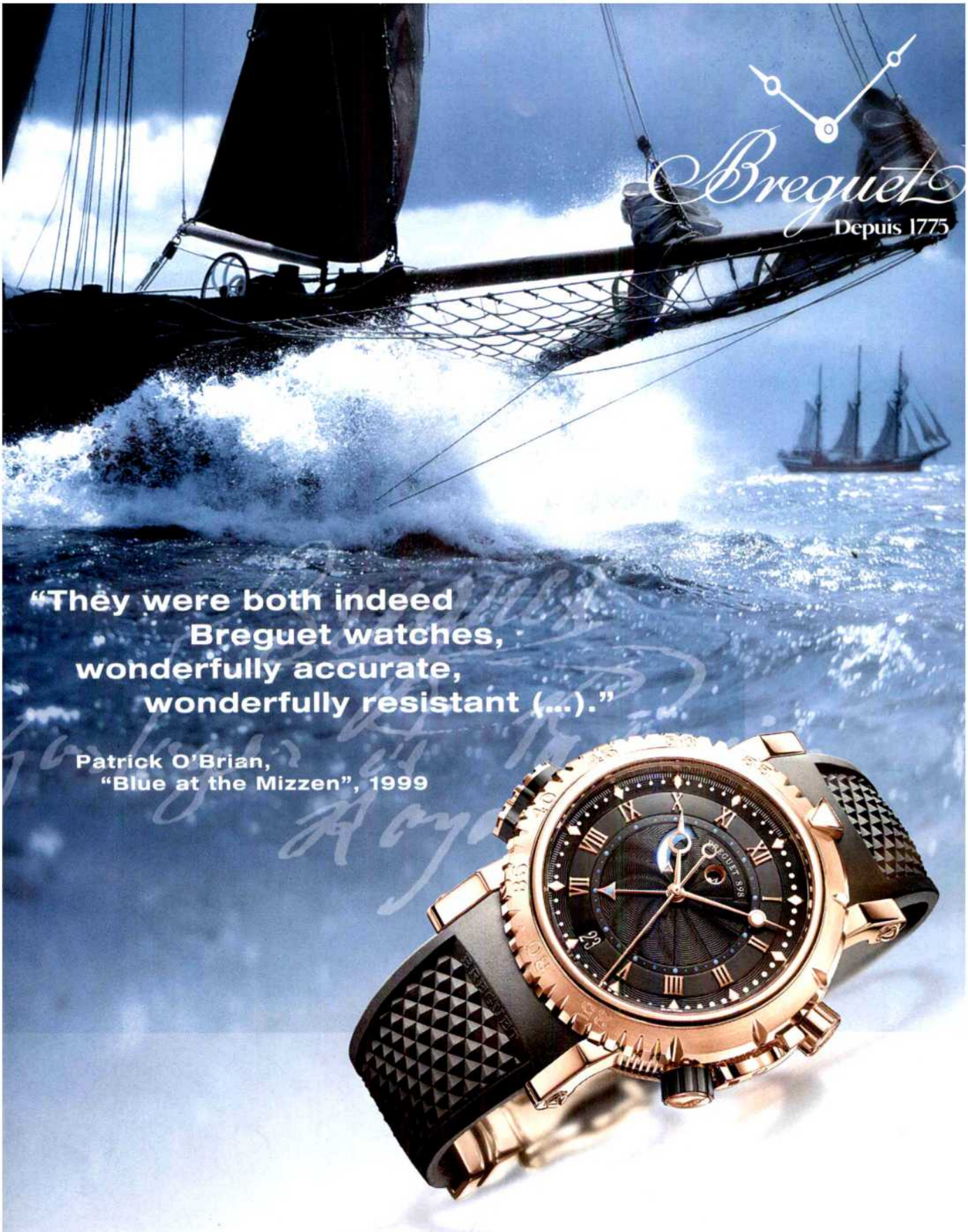

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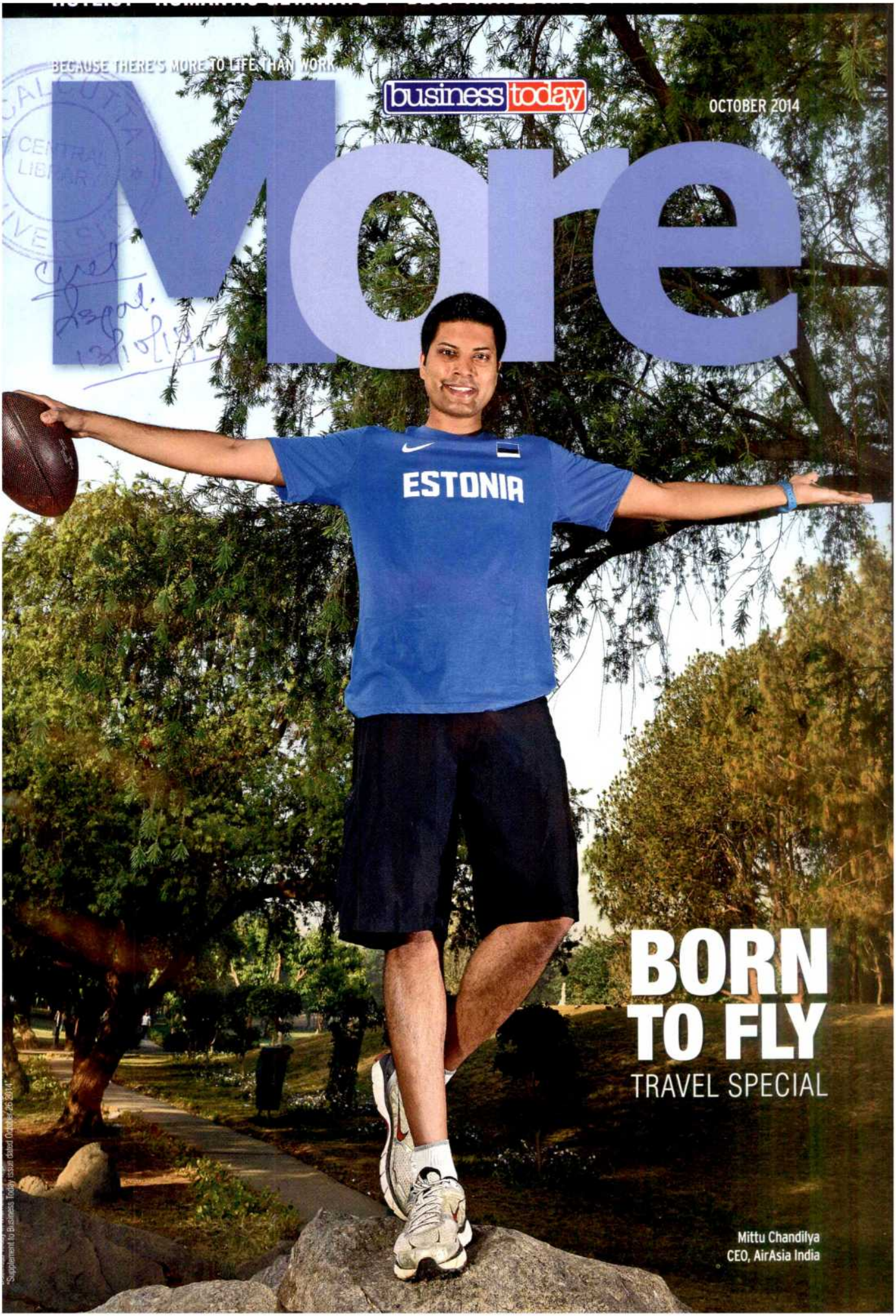

BORN TO FLY

TRAVEL SPECIAL

Mittu Chandilya
CEO, AirAsia India

Supplement to Business Today issue dated October 26 2014

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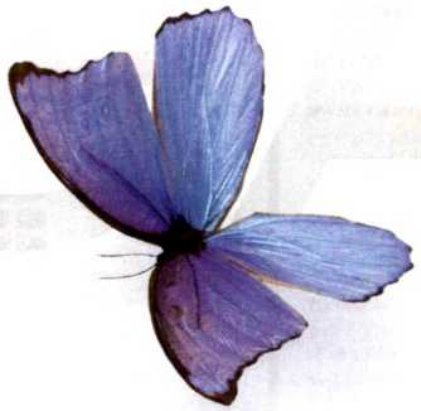

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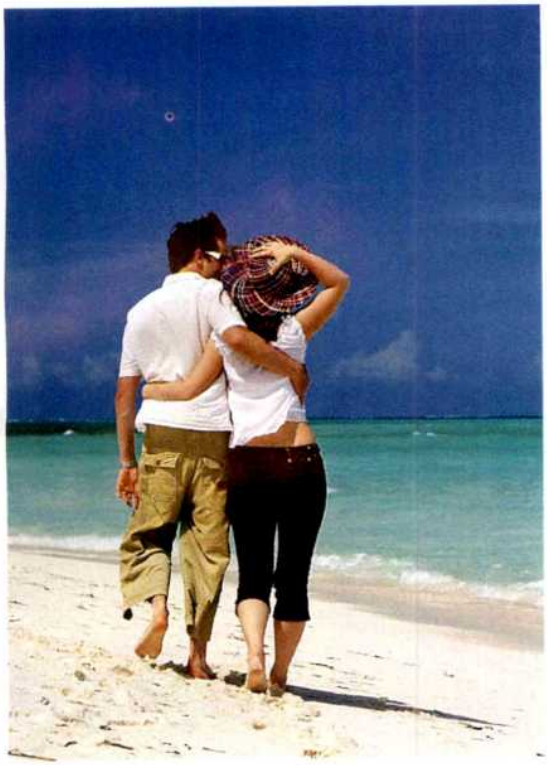

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ON THE COVER

Cover Image: SHEKHAR GHOSH

Deck up your Den

From sofas to hi-fi units, **Parushni Aggarwal** gives the lowdown on designing your hideaway

PRIORITISE FUNCTION OVER STYLE

To lend your den a minimalist and stylish look, focus on essential functional elements such as a full-length mirror or a sleek chest of drawers. Natural earth tones as well as combinations of white, black, grey, cream and cool blue work best for walls. Team them with curtains and bedspreads in neutral shades. Stick to wood for furniture as it creates a rugged-yet-warm look.

KEEP IT CLASSIC

Fibreglass and wicker are catching on, but nothing spells class like good ol' teak or redwood. Invest in Chippendale sofas, which look effortlessly elegant. Bulky pieces are best avoided unless you have a lot of space. Limit wall decor to paintings or framed photos. Ceramic or wrought-iron lamps are a good option.

FREE UP SPACE

Instead of filling your rooms with furniture that create the illusion of space, position the pieces to create mini-rooms within your apartment. This neatly compartmentalises the flow of space. With small shelves flanking a hanging TV and a low table underneath for movies and books, you can create a lounge-y atmosphere with two recliners and a couch. Make sure the entertainment system is not too far from the kitchen, where you can incorporate a snack centre and a built-in countertop.

COLOUR COORDINATE

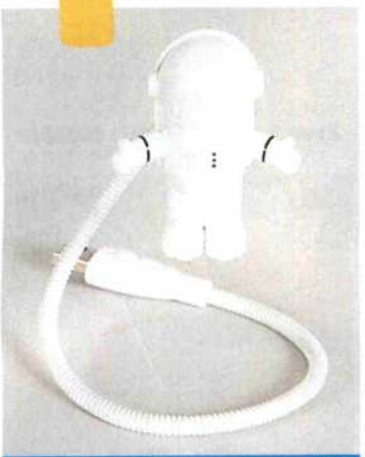
For the bathroom, opt for brick or stone finish tiles. For a more rugged look, design the bathroom in harmony with the connecting room. Stick to stainless steel for a snazzy-looking sink.

INVEST IN MUST-HAVES

No luxurious man cave is complete without a sofa made of genuine leather, a movie theatre with a stereo system, a mini sports bar and an elaborate writing desk.

Parushni Aggarwal is the creative director of Studio CREO

4 cool desk accessories



Spaceman USB light
More than half of your waking hours are spent at your workstation. Stock it with the best. The spaceman USB astro light bathes your computer in a halo of white light while peering at your keyboard. **Price** ₹1,370

Catapencil
The catapencil, a futuristic solution to common frustrations at modern workplaces, is just the thing for you. A pencil that doubles up as a catapult, it can be used to shoot paper balls at co-workers. **Price** ₹500

Everlast desktop bag
This one packs a punch. When you've had a long day and are at the very end of your tether, let off steam with a mini workout. A punching bag that bounces back amiably comes highly recommended. **Price** ₹1,947

iPhone notebooks
Its novelty value takes a while to wear off, which is why you need to keep this handy. A notepad in the size and shape of an iPhone makes those long meetings a little better. **Price** ₹1,216

Get in Hiking Shape

WHAT'S THE MOST EXTREME scenario you could face on a hiking trip? Encountering a bear, maybe? Implausible as it may sound, you've got to have your combat skills in place. Or your fleeing skills, if fighting back is just not your style. It won't be easy, but it's better than becoming some hulking creature's dinner. Oh well, enough with the scare tactics already. Here's how you can have an enjoyable multi-day hike without collapsing halfway through it.

GO SLOW AND STEADY

To get your body accustomed to carrying a 15-kg backpack, start with two-km hikes about thrice a week. Depending on your speed, this should be a 30-45 minute brisk walk. Prior to the hike, do some basic warm-up exercises. Spot jogging and stretching should help. Hiking on flat terrain is very different from walking uphill and downhill, and you need to engage those particular muscles when preparing yourself. Most of us are not blessed with naturally hilly terrain in the immediate vicinity, so try training on the stairs or an aerobic step machine. Go on, tire yourself out.

LOAD IT UP

Carrying loads forms an important part of your training routine. Steadily increase the weight of your expedition pack until you're able to finish a 12-km hike with a 10-kg backpack. Keep increasing the weight till you're able to carry 25 per cent of your body weight.

TAKE IT EASY

Evaluate your progress each day and increase load and distance very gradually. You may have to be ready for a multi-day hike in three weeks, but don't push yourself too much, too quickly. For the second week, stick to carrying your backpack on easier terrain. Throw in a few squats and lunges in your training routine to improve balance.

USE SUITABLE GEAR

Your body needs to be at its comfortable best to perform. Footwear is crucial because your feet bear the brunt of your weight and good hiking shoes can prevent blisters, muscle aches and skin irritation. Also, your backpack should have broad or cushioned straps that do not dig into your shoulders.

24 Hrs in Melbourne

Melbourne is officially the most tourist-friendly city in the world. A list of things you can do in Oz's cultural capital.

Take a hot air balloon ride to get the best view of Melbourne ▲

IF THERE ARE TWO PLACES IN THE world you can expect a polite response to your humble plea for directions, it's Melbourne in Australia and Auckland in New Zealand. Voted the friendliest cities in the world by the readers of a popular travel publication, they scored 86 points each — in the process dethroning last year's winner, Florianopolis. So, here are some things you can do the next time you find yourself in Melbourne for a full day.

Take a Hot Air Balloon Ride They depart early in the morning, so you can take in the beauty of the city as the sun rises.

Visit Queen Victoria Market Here, you get everything from knick-knacks to souvenirs from every corner of the world.

Ride the Great Ocean Road Stretching over 243 km along the Victorian Coast, it offers the best views yet.

Drop by Phillip Island Just the place to visit if you share our love for penguins.

IT'S A DATE

Events to attend this October

2 Motorcycles can take you anywhere, even to Sin City. Oggle, discover and experience the metal monsters at the Las Vegas Bikefest 2014.

4 The Paris Motor Show is the most prestigious motor show around. From new launches to historical expos, car lovers have a lot to look forward to.

11 The biggest party in town, the first ever Oktoberfest Budapest is a celebration of one of the most loved malty beverages - beer!

EMBRAER E2, HIGH ON SPACE

Tired of having to stuff your baggage into the overhead bin (breaking your delicate chinaware in the process) every single time you go travelling? Here's news. The interiors of the Embraer E2 make passenger comfort a priority in terms of luggage space as well as leg room. As for seating, the E2's seats have a whopping 36 inches of pitch — that's two more than the current best in the industry. Want more? The new plane's swankiness continues with built-in tablet holders, and the clever placement of acoustic curtains in its swanky lavatories. Now, that's high-flying luxury.

NOW, CHECK IN THROUGH FB

Checking in couldn't possibly get more convenient. South African Airways has introduced 'Social Check-In', an innovative method that allows travellers to manage an online check-in through their Facebook profiles. What's more, you can even share your own profile and check those of other passengers — therefore selecting seats based on matching interests. A simple procedure, Social Check-In requires guests to check in online on www.flysaa.com or m.flysaa.com and input their flight details. Log on to www.flysaa.com for more details.

CRUISE THE SPICE ROUTE

In ancient times, traders crossed the Indian Ocean — their ships filled with cinnamon, cassia, cardamom and turmeric. Today, centuries later, Azamara Club Cruises takes you through this very route on a 13-day voyage covering Mumbai, Goa, Kochi, Maldives, Colombo, Galle and Chennai. If there's one thing the cruise has no shortage of, it's variety. Embark on the luxury holiday from the heart of Maximum City, and cruise along

The Spice Route covers Mumbai, Goa, Kochi, Colombo, Galle and Maldives over 13 days ▲

gorgeous beaches and spice plantations to reach the colonial extravaganza of Goa. A few days later, experience the surreal beauty of the Kerala backwaters and watch a mesmerising Kathakali performance before leaving for the unblemished sands of Maldives. This trip, which covers seven UNESCO sites as well as other historical sites, costs $4,249 per person. Are you game? **Price ₹2.58 lakh for a 13-day journey**

WRECK DIVING IN ANDAMANS

Infiniti, India's first and only live-aboard service, is organising a special wreck diving trip at the Andamans that promises to be a hit with every adventure sports enthusiast worth his salt. As part of this expedition, to be undertaken in November over a period of five days, you can explore the Inkjet — a Japanese ship that was scuttled near Duncan Island during World War II. But why get off the couch, you ask? Well, if marine life interests you, rest assured that shipwrecks usually become an artificial reef that provide many kinds of aquatic creatures — including butterfly fish, trevallies and sea anemones — with a habitat. Don't care much for gills and fins? Get down there for the adventure anyway.
Price Starts at ₹89,999

LUXURY TRAIN FROM 2015

Worldwide Rail Journeys has chartered the Royal Rajasthan on Wheels to launch a luxury train called Unity Express in India. The railway project, with state-specific carriages and cultural shows, promises to celebrate the diversity of India in a way that no tourist has experienced before. The launch of the Unity Express has been planned for March 29, 2015, in a manner that will not disturb the regular itinerary of the Royal Rajasthan. Meanwhile, talks are on with the Indian Railways to acquire a dedicated train of its own. "For the first phase trial in March, the train will cover Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh," a company spokesperson said.
Price ₹38,045 per night

Dealing with Ebola

Worried that the deadly Ebola strain may hit our shores soon? Don't panic yet; it cannot touch you as long as you maintain proper hygiene and adhere to a few simple rules.

Avoid travelling to Ebola-hit nations until the crisis has abated. It's better to be safe than sorry. ▲

Avoid travel to Ebola-hit lands

Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Nigeria, besides a few other nations in western Africa, currently figure in the list of Ebola-hit countries. Avoid travelling to these countries unless it's a matter of great concern. Considering that Ebola is an ailment with a fatality rate of 90 per cent, it certainly isn't a risk worth taking.

Wash up, always

Wash your hands with soap at all times. While it may seem like quite a childish method to some, rest assured that this is the most effective way to kill the virus. Travelling? Take a hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol content) along.

Keep handshakes to a minimum

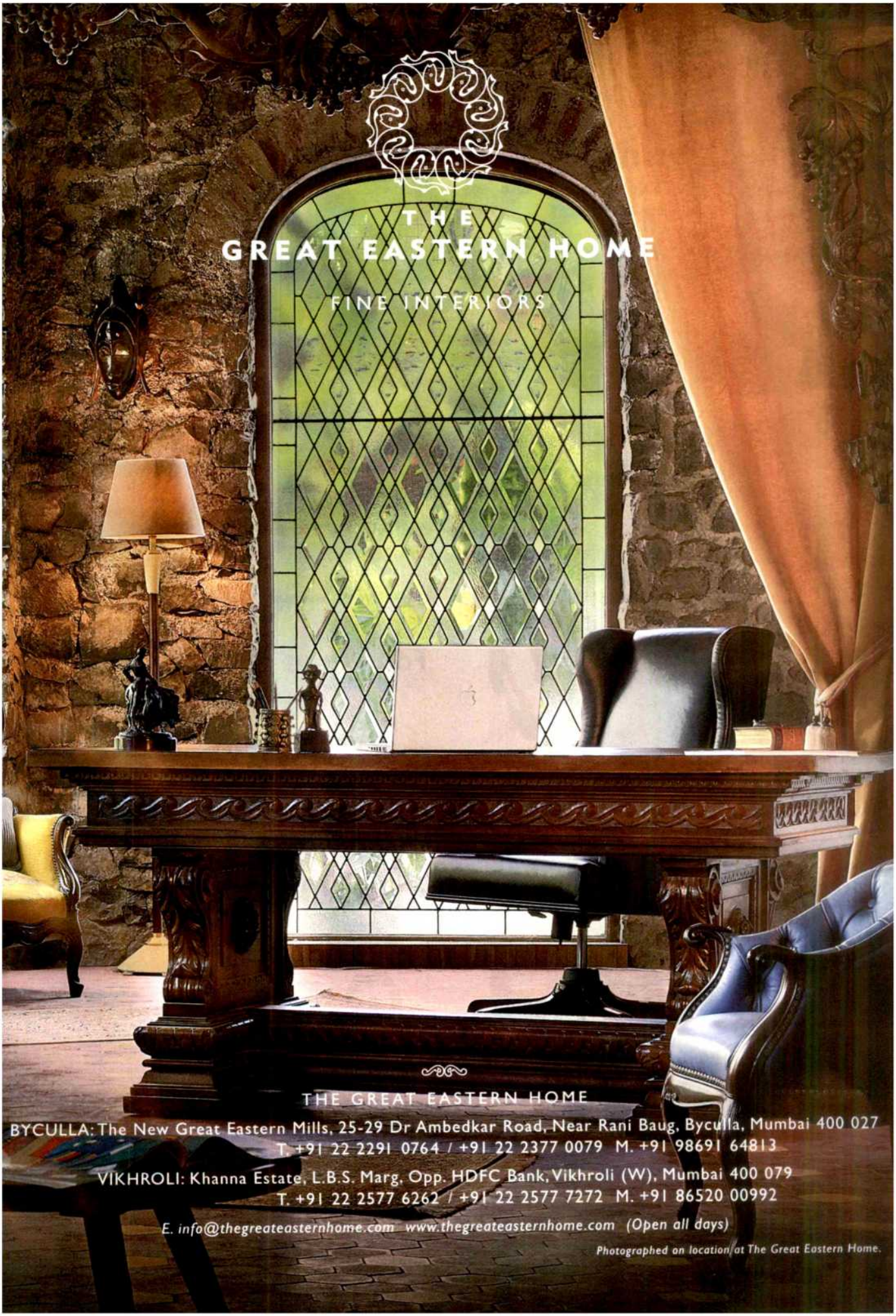
If you are in an Ebola-hit country, try to keep your handshakes and hugs on hold until the medical crisis has been brought under control. Experts say that skin, eyes, food and water are the most likely routes for viral entry. If that handshake is absolutely necessary (you can't wrap up a business deal without one, can you?), make sure you wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer immediately afterwards.

Cook your meat well

Given that the Ebola virus purportedly affected humans through animals, it would be a good idea to wash and cook meat properly before consuming it. Also, don't give in to your desire for some exotic wild game meat — it's what started this mess in the first place.

Avoid all contact with the affected

Your best friend from Nigeria must have fallen prey to this deadly virus, but sometimes it's necessary to harden your heart and avoid paying him a visit. The Ebola virus can spread through all body fluids, from blood and semen to saliva and vomit. While your friend may need all the support he/she can get, let's assume that doesn't include you lying in the next bed.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E. info@thegreateasternhome.com www.thegreateasternhome.com (Open all days)
Photographed on location at The Great Eastern Home.

Weighed Down

Are we going on a diet again? Six common mistakes to avoid on the road to losing those extra pounds.

Going heavy on protein

If you want to trade flab for muscles, what better to do than keep off cheese and binge on meat - right? Wrong. While protein is important, having too much of it will only result in you storing it up as fat. Have a carrot instead.

Binge eating

No, working out for an hour in the morning does not give you any such concession. After all, why would you want to throw away all that effort on an ill-advised fling with a cheeseburger? You may have your cheat meals, though.

Skipping breakfast

Switching that breakfast sandwich with a big glass of juice again? Experts say that most juices raise blood sugar levels, resulting in your body producing more insulin. So, what happens next? You get hungry and overeat later.

Repeating exercises

If there anything you shouldn't be like, it's a stuck record. Don't perform the same exercises over and over, and expect the same benefits. To get better results, vary the frequency, intensity or time. This way, it won't get boring either.

Staying awake

Appetite and hunger hormones are greatly influenced by how much sleep you get. Staying awake will only make you indulge in late night snacking, which can't be a good thing at all.

Making excuses

What's the most common excuse for not exercising? Well, stop faking yourself into being lazy. Walk ten yards, and you will want to go 100 more. Exercise doesn't tire as much as it energises you.

Steelcase Walkstation

ARE LONG HOURS AT THE WORKSTATION TAKING a toll on your waistline? That may soon become history, with the Steelcase Walkstation likely to hit Indian shores in the near future. An integrated treadmill and work surface, it will have a positive impact on the general health as well as physique of the office-goer. What's more, it can even provide for some 'healthy' competition at the workplace!

Price ₹2.72 lakh

From Men'sHealth

Four Steps to Good Looks

Get deeper and down Start by applying a cleanser after a lengthy steam bath, which helps open your pores. Hold a hot towel to your face for a minute to get the steaming effect. Then apply a cleanser.

Scratch the surface Exfoliation removes the top layer of the skin and unblocks your pores, translating into fewer spots and ingrown hair. A high-street scrub will remove dead skin cells. Use it twice a week for smooth skin.

Just add water Men usually don't moisturise enough for facials to deliver the results you'd expect. Apply moisturiser by making long strokes from the inside of your face out. This relaxes your skin, so it's more receptive to hydration.

Leave the bags at the door A massage of the eye area reduces any excess fluid, so eyes look less puffy. Cooling the skin also helps get rid of dark circles. The solution, you say? Cooling gels are hydrating, and their cold rollerball help reduce redness.

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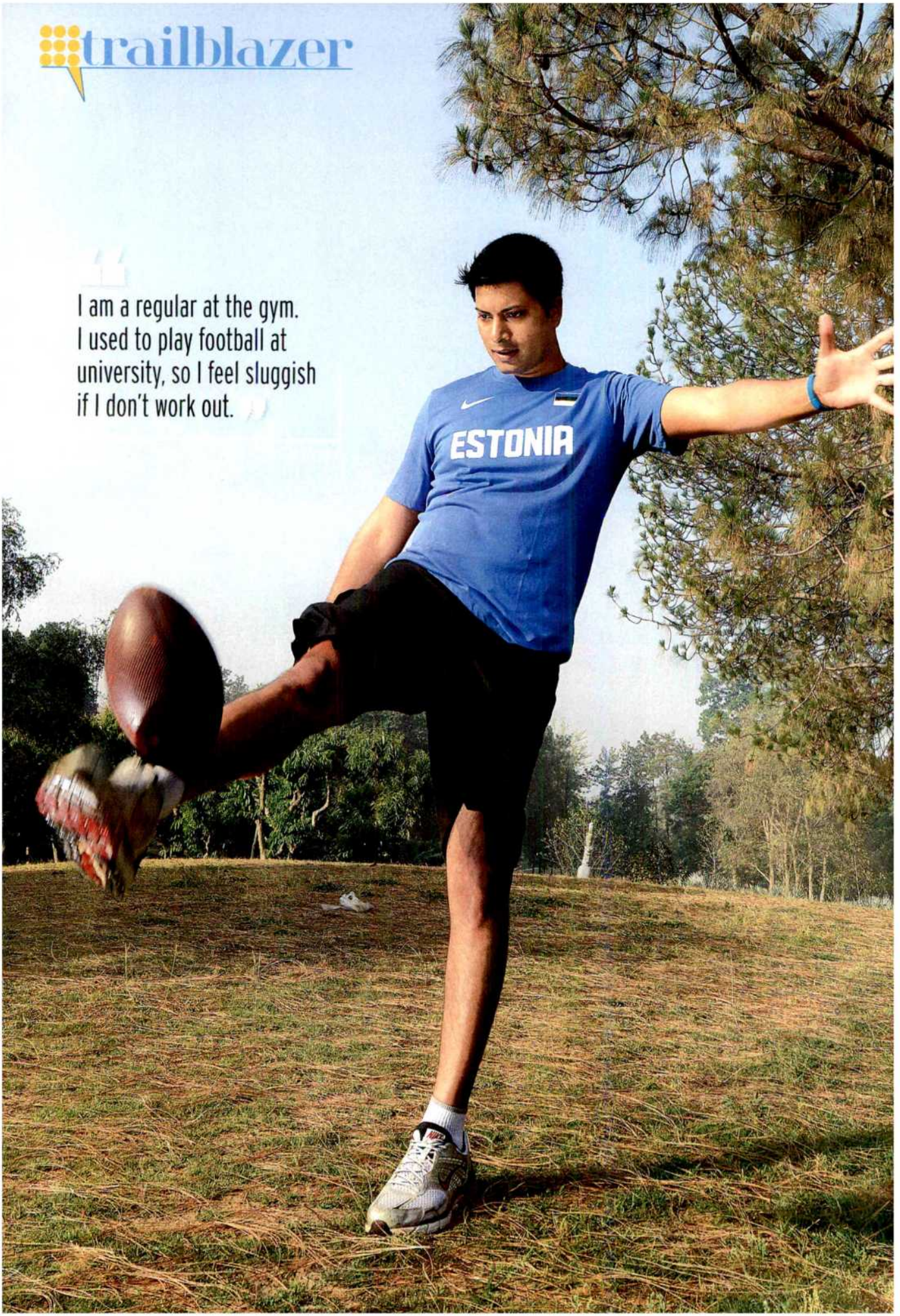

trailblazer
I am a regular at the gym. I used to play football at university, so I feel sluggish if I don't work out.
ESTONIA

TRAVEL LIGHT, BE ADVENTUROUS

Don't let the horizon limit your travels, says AirAsia India CEO **Mittu Chandilya**. Hot travel tips from the hottest new face in the aviation industry.

AT 33, AIRASIA INDIA'S MITTU CHANDILYA IS THE youngest CEO in the aviation industry. "I became the head of AirAsia India last year. But then, I have always been the youngest at most accomplishments in my life," he says. "I am an entrepreneur at heart with a professional athlete's mentality. There is absolutely no compromising on hard work — prep, prep and more prep; it's never wasted."

And when it comes to travel, who better to ask than the man responsible for orchestrating the latest revolution in the Indian aviation industry? We quiz Mittu Chandilya on his travel experiences across the world, and gather some valuable information on how to organise our own getaways.

CHECK, DOUBLE CHECK »

I always plan ahead for my trips; it can make a great difference even if you are a frequent flier. Now, this may sound simple, but I can't stress enough on the need to not leave your passport behind. Pack your bags in advance, so you do not forget anything at the last moment. Keep a digital copy of your itinerary at all times, and if you're going through a smaller airport, a hard copy would be a good idea. Most importantly, be at the check-in counter at least two hours before departure time.

DO YOUR RESEARCH »

You can do a whole lot before you actually reach the airport. Go online, block your seats and pick any preference you may have (do this at least four hours before your flight takes off, especially if you are a picky eater and want to fix meal preferences). Research your destination too. Check on immigration and immunisation requirements, book your hotel room, and ensure that you have a prepaid cab at your beck and call.

TRAVEL LIGHT »

That's what I prefer, anyway. I usually take just my carry on bag, and the essentials are a couple of white shirts, running shoes, gym wear, a couple of ties, a suit and a navy blue sports jacket, a pair of trousers, jeans, sunglasses and — well — cosmetics. As I'm no fan of airline food on domestic flights, unless it is AirAsia (wink), I pack a bag of nuts and raisins or protein cookies to curb those hunger pangs.

> I never take maps or guidebooks. Instead, I walk down the street and talk to the local folks about the place.

MY GADGETS »

Some things that are absolutely critical for all my trips are my laptop or iPad, and enough juice (in the form of battery packs and power adapters) to keep them going through the worst of times. I find my iPad quite convenient, for documentation as well as carrying around. But, that said, my phone is number one on the list because it provides me updates on our operations, safety factors and service every minute of the day. What's more, it keeps me connected with the social media too. Last on my list, but definitely not the least, are my noise-cancellation headphones (Bose Q15, Bowers & Wilkins P5 or my wireless Parrot Zik). They create a distraction-free environment when I need to work out, snooze or work onboard.

FITNESS ON THE GO »

For me, good health starts with diet. Half the battle is won when you watch what you eat. Focus on nutrition, ensure that you are get what your body needs, and cut out what is harmful for your body. However, I am not one of those who counts every calorie he eats; I depend more on working out. I usually play a lot of football. On days I have to travel, I pack my running shoes and gym clothes. If I am supposed to be gone all day, I wake up early and hit the gym.

BE ADVENTUROUS »

Rather than stick to conventional tourist hotspots at a holiday destination, I prefer finding places on my own. I usually never take maps or guidebooks; instead, I walk down the street and talk to local folks about the place. You get a much more genuine, unabridged and rich flavour of the place when you do this. While such a course of action is not without its risks, it's definitely a more adventurous option.

The Romance of Travel

A writer, an enthusiastic globetrotter and an eternal romantic shares her favourite getaways in the world. BY AMRITA CHOWDHURY

ROMANCE AND TRAVEL ARE LINKED IN more ways than one. The former brings about an emotional intensity and a yearning for togetherness with your loved one in a bubble of seclusion, something that is best provided by a ticket to the nearest island nation. No wonder, then, that scores of *Mills and Boon* books work on the same theme, where the gorgeous hero and his lady love escape to a picturesque destination and rediscover their passions far away from the travails of everyday life. Here are my top spots to visit for romantic experiences in all their varied hues and flavours.

BY THE SEA | **Amalfi Coast, Italy**

The beautiful Costa Amalfitana whispers romance along every turn on the winding coast-hugging highway south of Napoli. Dotted with picturesque villages stuck to the edges of rugged green hills, complete with bougainvillea-laden villas cantilevered over the shimmering sea, you can almost imagine yourself inside a Gran Turismo ride. Take your loved one on a walk along the cobblestoned streets of Sorrento, Positano or Amalfi, shopping at tiny boutiques, and parking yourself under the occasional roadside tree. Stop by the ancient ruins of Pompeii in the shadows of the Vesuvius, following by a boat ride across the blue-green sea to the fabulous isle of Capri.

Don't miss

THEATRE GOERS The Amalfi Musical
HISTORY BUFFS The Giardini di Villa Rufolo
NATURE LOVERS Valle dei Mulini Amalfi

LOVE FOR FOOD | **Australia**

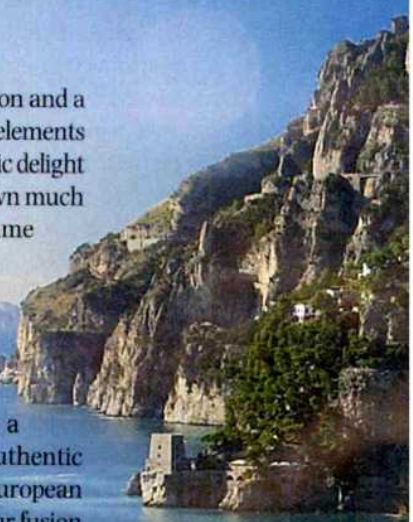
There is an openness to experimentation and a culinary affection among individual elements that make Australia such a gastronomic delight for nouvelle cuisine, and this was known much before *MasterChef Australia* even came about. Coasts, cowboy countrysides and chic cities define this large country. Try a kangaroo steak under the stars in the shadow of a looming Uluru, or enjoy freshly caught barramundi or mud crabs at a tucked away coastal town. Enjoy authentic dishes from the kitchens of Asian, European and Middle Eastern migrants, or savour fusion cuisines in eclectic restaurants by the harbour.

Don't miss

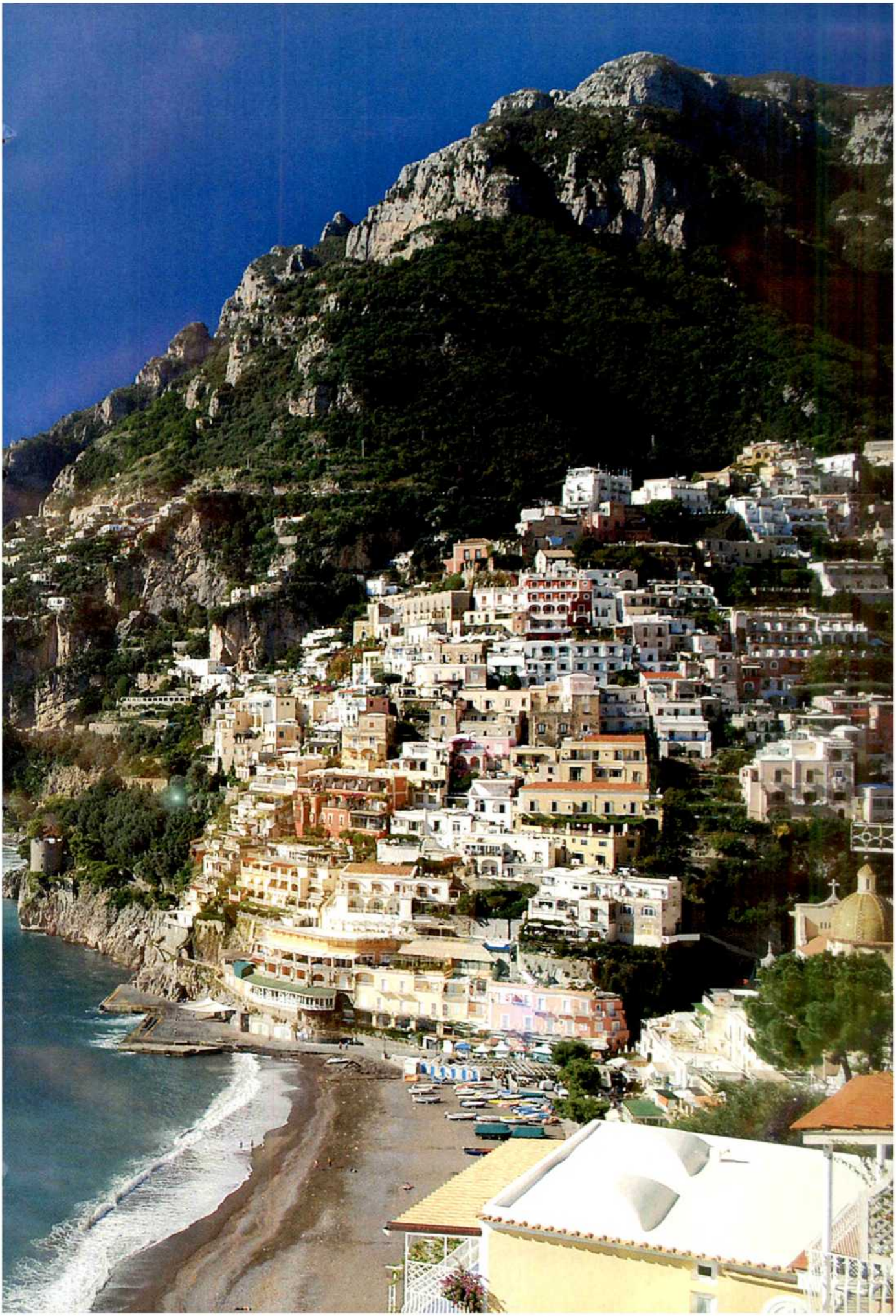
THEATRE GOERS Sydney Opera House
SHOPPER'S STOP Queen Victoria Market
NATURE LOVERS Kakadu National Park

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD | **Scotland**

Give the bustling cathedrals and castles of Edinburgh and Glasgow a miss and head for the atmospheric countryside. Millenniums of history and legends breathe life into the Scottish highlands, and along their tortuous firths. Stop at peaty gurgling brooks and stone-carved distilleries along the Whiskey Trail. Explore ruined castles and palatial homes in sleepy hamlets, finding space and time for solitude. Drive past the purple-brown moors and dense green hills, deep lochs and little inlets of the north and the west. Tee off in one of the original greens along



Amalfi is the perfect place to whisk off your loved one on a passionate getaway in true storybook style



Chowdhury takes a breather under a tree in Scotland.

the eastern side. It's easy to imagine peace and togetherness in this wild and scenic region. Even if you aren't keen on the haggis, do make it a point to try their melt-in-the-mouth fudge.

Don't miss

WATER RATS Loch Ness lake
HISTORY BUFFS Edinburgh Castle
BOOZE TRAIL Scotch Whisky Heritage Lovers

ISLAND GETAWAY | Caribbean Islands

Nothing conjures romance better than spending some time on a washed away isle in warm waters, or sinking your feet in soft golden or pink sands outside your secluded beach villa. No wonder, then, that it's a favourite among jetsetters looking for down time. Though the Caribbean offers many an option, you will do well to skip the glitz and glamour of Riviera casinos and — instead — opt for some together-time on a castaway island. From the reggae beats and Indian-African influenced foods of Jamaica to the utter seclusion of the Virgin Islands, you can find your own personal beach haven.

Don't miss

MARLEY FANS Falmouth Shore
DIVING ENTHUSIASTS Bahamas
SHOPPER'S STOP St Thomas Shore

WINTER ESCAPE | Switzerland

Nothing works better than this winter wonderland to soak in the chills and thrills of the season. The sweeping panorama of majestic peaks, snow-laden slopes, picturesque cottages, dense green fir trees and frozen waterfalls can be seen as soon as you wind uphill from the cities. Once on top, settle down in an apres ski chalet over a nice mug of hot chocolate or warm beer. Rub shoulders with the hip and the happening at the fashionable resorts of Mt Blanc, Zermatt or the Jungfrau. Relax in the quiet grandeur of the terrain in the Arosa or Davos Parsenn regions.

Don't miss

MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS Bernese Alps
HISTORY BUFFS Château de Chillon
NATURE LOVERS Zoo Basel

DESERT KINGDOM | Oman

Desert kingdoms offer an exotic blend of warm seaside and rugged interiors. As a safe and beautiful sultanate close to India, Oman offers some very delightful escapes. Experience the adventure of dune-bashing in the sands in the evening and sit by a spitting bonfire under the starry skies before retiring into a beautifully embroidered tent in a Wadi oasis. Soak in the luxury of a coastal resort and swim, snorkel or walk along the beach. Eat like a Sheikh and Sheikhina and discover the spit-roasted meats and grilled vegetables with warm pitas or pilaffs studded with olives and apricots from the desert.

Don't miss

THEATRE GOERS Royal Opera House, Muscat
HISTORY BUFFS Misfah
NATURE LOVERS Barka Zoo

The writer is publishing director and country head, Harlequin India.

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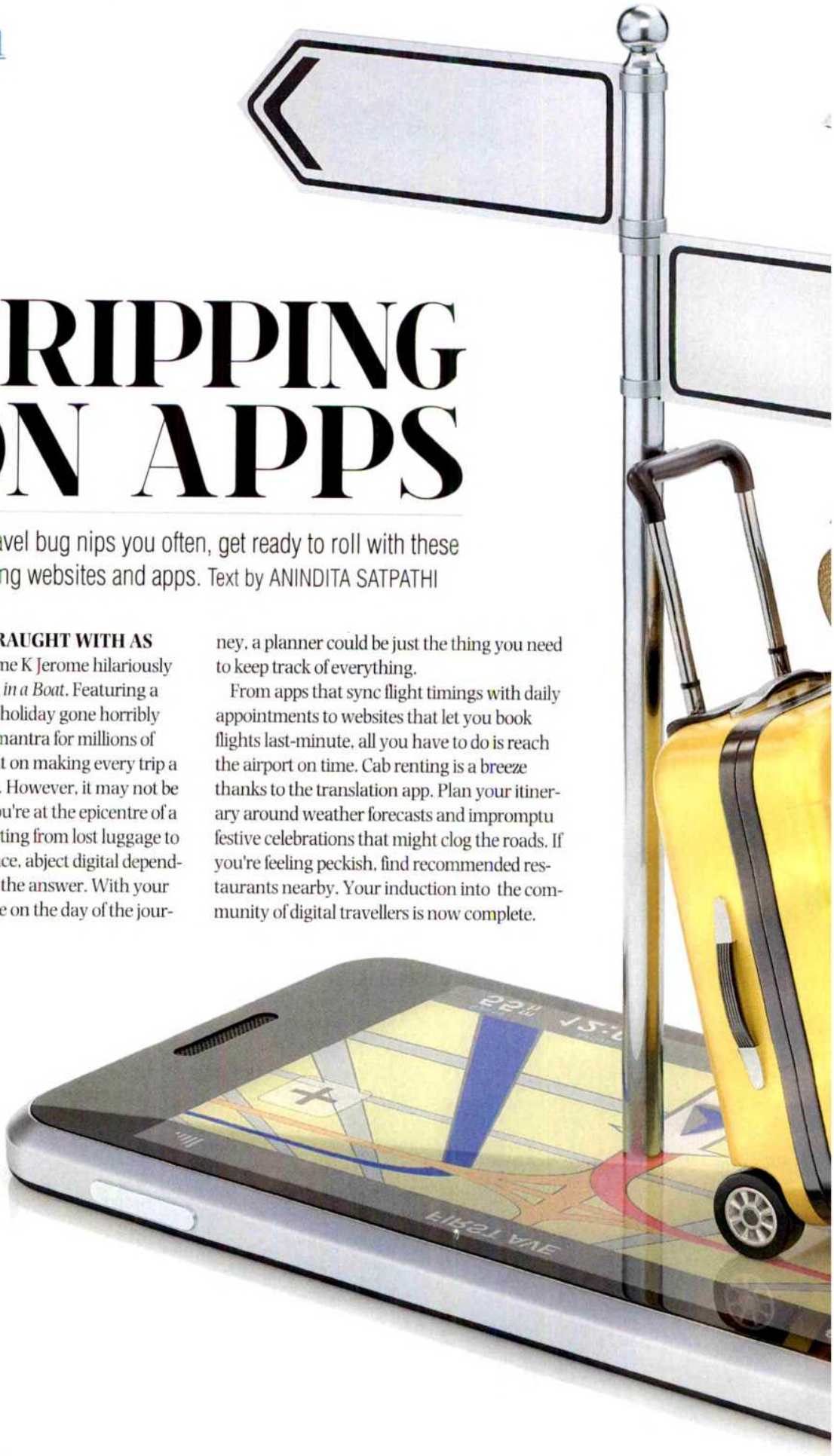
TRIPPING ON APPS

If the travel bug nips you often, get ready to roll with these exciting websites and apps. Text by ANINDITA SATPATHI

TRAVELLING IS FRAUGHT WITH AS many niggles as Jerome K Jerome hilariously depicted in *Three Men in a Boat*. Featuring a typically Brit boating holiday gone horribly wrong, the book is a mantra for millions of hopeful travellers bent on making every trip a journey to remember. However, it may not be as much fun when you're at the epicentre of a series of mishaps, starting from lost luggage to a missed flight. For once, abject digital dependency may actually be the answer. With your mind all over the place on the day of the journey, a planner could be just the thing you need to keep track of everything.

From apps that sync flight timings with daily appointments to websites that let you book flights last-minute, all you have to do is reach the airport on time. Cab renting is a breeze thanks to the translation app. Plan your itinerary around weather forecasts and impromptu festive celebrations that might clog the roads. If you're feeling peckish, find recommended restaurants nearby. Your induction into the community of digital travellers is now complete.



Choose your Seat

» **Seatguru** Did somebody beat you to your favourite window seat again? Use this handy app to shrug off much of the dread associated with long-haul flights. Interactive seating charts give you an insight into leg-room, location of video screens, access to electrical outlets and proximity to emergency exits. You can also recommend or diss airlines, based on your experience, to fellow fliers.

» Airlinemeals.net

» JetLag Genie

Get Organised

» **Hipmunk.com** Optimised results and a visually brilliant search engine make Hipmunk the go-to portal for travellers. The stuff of dreams for fliers short on time, it even integrates with Google Calendar. For instance, it prompts you when a meeting is too close to your flight's arrival time. The hotel search function, unlike other sites, prioritises location and not price. Believe us, patrons just can't stop gushing about the Hipmunk user experience.

» Ajungo.com

» Worldmate.com

Flight Deals

» **Skyscanner.com** When it comes to viewing flight deals from over 1,000 airlines and travel agents in one go, this is your best bet. Compare and find the cheapest deal as the website throws up all-inclusive prices and directs you to each airline's website. Try out Skytools for additional features. After making a mark in India, Skyscanner plans to expand its footprint with a snappy mobile app.

» MakeMyTrip.com

» Ixigo.com

Hotels and Resorts

» **Lonely Planet.com** The perfect site for detailed inputs on local flavour, budget resorts and food hubs, as provided by travel experts, adventurers and zealous tourists. If you're curious about a new destination, run a quick check on Lonely Planet.

» Raveable.com

» Grantourismotravels.com

Route Guidance

» **RoadTrippers** This route planner has a mish-mash of user-friendly elements to complement the smart interface. From off-beat spots to restaurants and quirky attractions, there's never a dull moment behind the wheel. The snappy app has a gas-tracking feature that estimates the fuel cost of your journey. You can add up to 28 destinations and make it one rollicking ride.

» Rometorio

» Tripadvisor offline city guides

Lap of Luxury

» **Mrandmrssmith.com** Reviewing luxury boutique resorts is not as easy as it looks. Say hello to the Tommy and Tuppence of the hospitality world as they travel to exotic destinations across the world. Get insider tips on must-try exclusive services and know which sea-facing rooms to sweetly insist on. The advice, based on first-hand experience, makes travelling a complete joy to behold.

» Slh.com

» I-escape.com

Nearby Eateries

» **Foodspotting** Still your growling tummy — here's an app that will never be at a loss when you need to zero in on a foodie joint. Armed with exclusive information on each restaurant, cafe and street food stall, it opens up a world of gastronomical options for the user. Find out where the cool kids hang and the best joints for local grub. The locals are kind enough to help with droolworthy images and detailed reviews. Dig in.

» Eater.com

» Eat your world

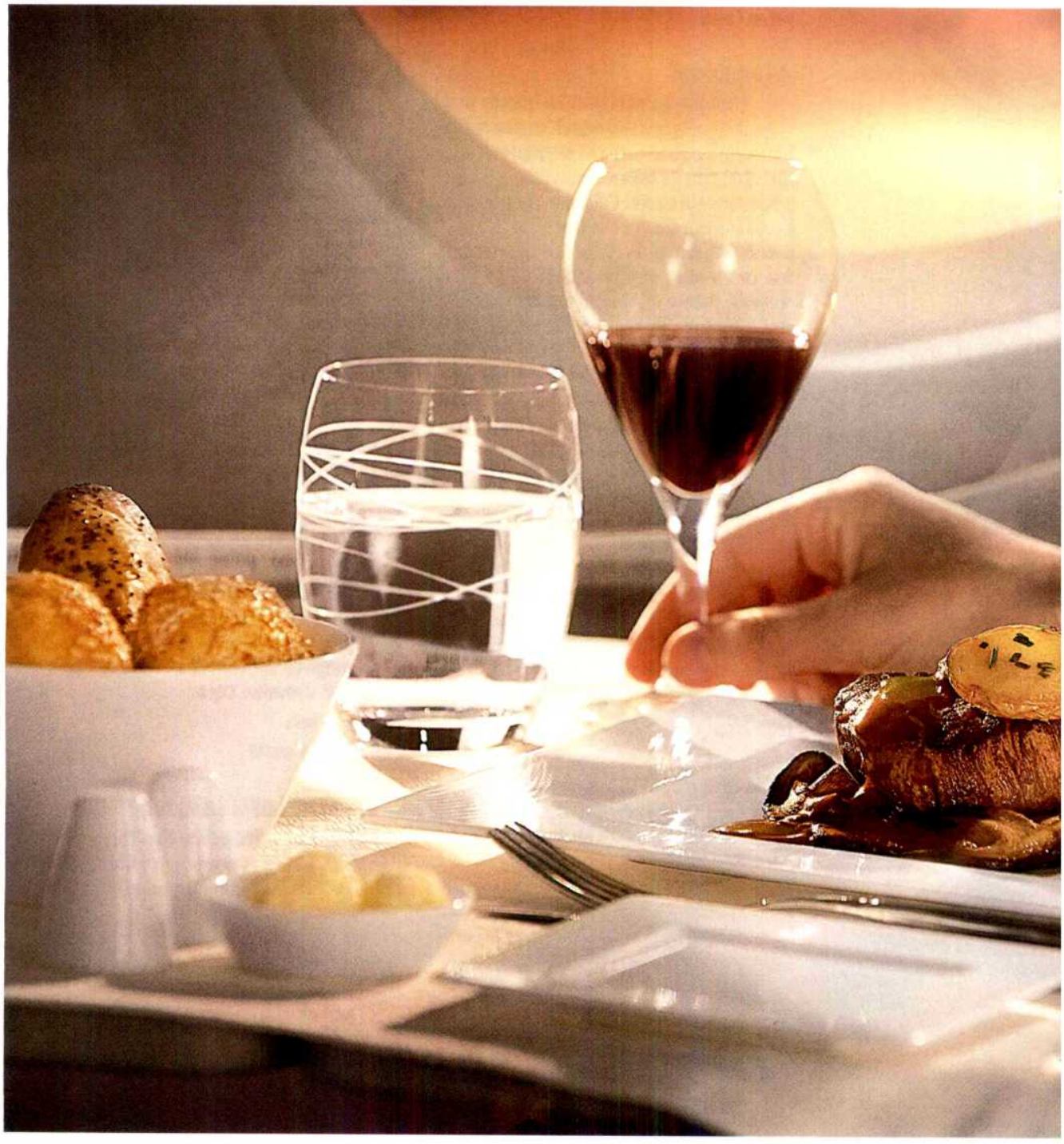
Translate Local Language

» **Voice Translate Pro** This app addresses nearly every translating woe, making the lives of hapless tourists everywhere a little easier. With a database of over 100 global languages, it interprets information instantly, so you'll have no trouble seeking directions in a foreign land. Don't give up on trying to pick up the local accent, though.

» Lonely Planet Audio Phrasebooks

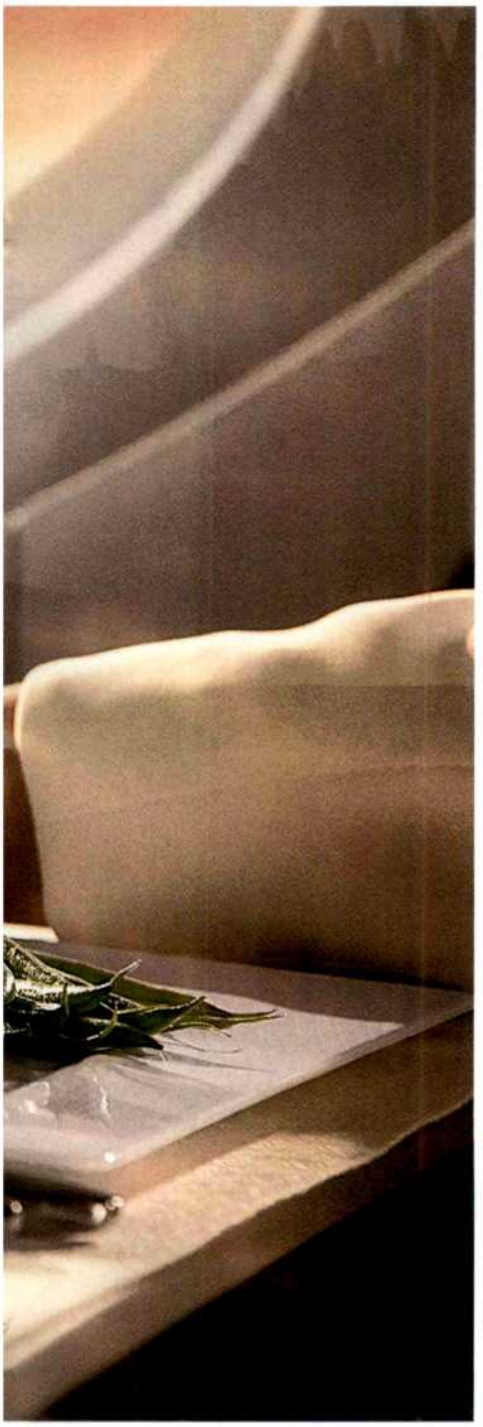
» Word Lens

Sushi in the Sky



The top airlines to pick if you are hrough with dull in-flight dinners.

Text by JIMMY JACOB



STRAPPED TO AN AIRLINE SEAT 35,000 FEET ABOVE THE ground, you hear a low grumble. Your tummy's clearly disgruntled that it hasn't been fed in the last four hours.

You gesture to the flight attendant, and she wafts over to your side with a smile. "I would like something to eat, please. What do you have on the menu?"

"Right now, that would be a chicken-jalapeno sandwich, Sir."

"Umm... could I have something without chicken, please?"

"That will be a chicken-jalapeno sandwich, minus chicken, Sir."

You shrug your shoulders helplessly, and ask for the sandwich anyway. A bite later, you grimace and wish you hadn't.

Now, as much as you would like to blame the airline staffers for making a tasteless sandwich (the utter lack of options notwithstanding), it would only be fair to note that foods simply have a tendency to appear non-appetising when ingested thousands of feet above ground level.

Why, you ask? Well, modern aircraft can climb to altitudes of 35,000 feet, but the pressurised cabin makes one feel as if it's just a little more than 6,000 feet. While this does make breathing easier, it has a gastronomic downside — the air pressure numbs your taste buds, causing the food to appear blander. The comparatively lower level of cabin humidity (by almost 20 per cent) makes things worse, weakening your sense of taste and smell. The air conditioning, not to be outdone, dries up the food instantaneously — turning a nice breast of chicken into something akin to sawdust before you can even hope to devour it. Now, this could have led to quite a tragic scenario for gourmands travelling long-distance if our favourite airlines hadn't decided to do something about it. Fortunately, they did.

TODAY, THE BLAND SANDWICH IS HISTORY. SAY HELLO TO GOURMET DINNERS, BONE CHINA PLATES AND CRYSTAL WINE GLASSES

Today, most airline carriers have bid farewell to the packaged sandwich — instead taking steps to turn entire aircraft into luxury restaurants. Plastic trays and paper cups have given way to bone china plates and crystal wine glasses, and celebrity chefs from Michelin-starred restaurants whip up culinary surprises (with an extra dash of flavour) for you at the tap of a buzzer. If you don't feel like Chinese, there are a hundred other cuisines — from Continental to Lebanese — for you to choose from. Here's a look at the top five airlines you should board, if fine dining is your thing.

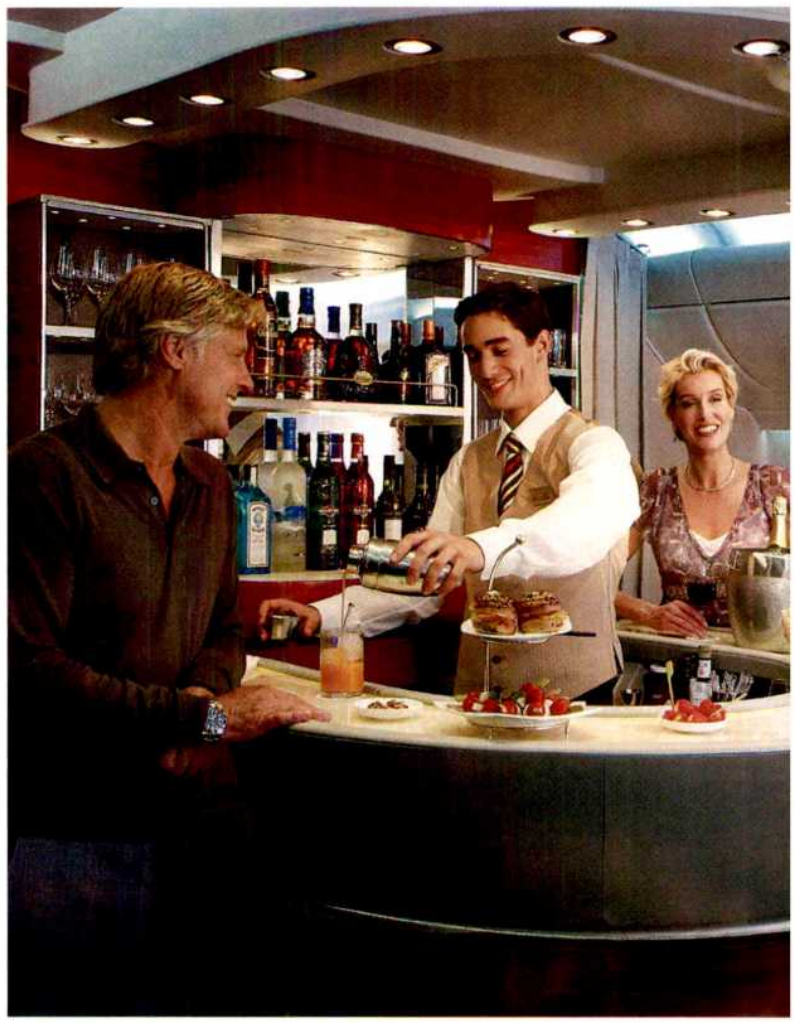
Emirates

Planning to snooze your way through the Emirates flight to your destination? We sure hope you reconsider, because — ultra-luxurious private suites, fully flat beds and the shower spa notwithstanding — the chow they have on offer is to die for. Exclusively plated on Royal Doulton fine bone china and Robert Welch cutlery, you get everything from wild Iranian caviar to duck breast glazed with wild forest honey in one exotic gastronomic package.

Says Essa Sulaiman Ahmad, Vice President (India and Nepal), Emirates, "We have over 500 international chefs from across the world in our catering team. Here, we focus on providing a gourmet in-flight dining experience to our customers through all aspects of our service. Whether it's curry from India or sushi from Japan, we are always looking to learn from the local cuisine. Our menus reflect local tastes."

Care for a glimpse beyond heaven? Take a ride in the Emirates Airline A380 aircraft, and you get all this — plus a chance to sip grand cru wines and nibble on canapes in lavish lounges manned by a dedicated bartender.

WE RECOMMEND Aubergine lasagne, braised beef in coconut milk, wild Iranian caviar.



Singapore Airlines

What do you get when you have heavyweight chefs like Suzanne Goin, Georges Blanc and Sam Leong sitting at a desk to decide on a common gastronomic agenda? No prizes for this one — it's the Singapore Airlines' menu book! Each trip through the skies in a Singapore Airlines flight is an experience in fine dining, and new dishes are developed and critiqued in a manner similar to military commanders reviewing their field strategies.

To handle the air-pressure dilemma, in-house menus are created in a test kitchen that mimics the atmospheric conditions in an actual airline cabin. Even the spirits are not spared — each bottle of liquor is made to undergo palatability tests at high altitudes, and only the finest are allowed to be carted in. Those desiring the very impossible in the art of cooking must try their exclusive Book the Cook Service, which lets you select your gourmet main course at least 24 hours before departure. So, go ahead — sip some blessed Krug, sample some tender satay, and pray that your journey through the skies never ends.

WE RECOMMEND Nigiri sushi, crabmeat ee-fu noodle soup.

Etihad Airways

If you are on a quest for exquisite food and personalised service, look no further than an Etihad airliner calmly winging its way over the horizon. After all, these guys believe in spoiling their passengers silly with delectable bites prepared by expert chefs, complete with charming flight attendants and wine tasters to apply the finishing touches on a glorious journey to remember.

Unlike other carriers, which prepare food on the ground and serve it to passengers after some fairly simple reheating, the chefs aboard Etihad do much of the cooking at the last moment. While the focus lies on modern Arabic cuisine, passengers can pick anything from an inexhaustible list of international delicacies — be it the Moroccan lamb tagine or the lip-smacking shio koji salmon — and customise it to their stomach's content. But what of the air pressure, you ask? Well, the food is made flavourful enough to withstand any such concern.

WE RECOMMEND Grilled tenderloin, lamb thareed, date and custard cake.

Qatar Airways

They say that a good cook rarely feels at home outside his kitchen, but Nobu — a chef par excellence from Japan — just can't stop raving about the artistic freedom he gets from Qatar Airways. "They understand my philosophy," he gushes. "It's like a nice marriage, a balance in the foot."

And why not, considering that he — in cahoots with other celebrity chefs like Tom Aikens, Ramzi Choueiri and Vineet Bhatia — has been given a free rein to impress every discerning taste bud on the firmament. Satisfy your palate and excite your senses with a wide variety of tantalising dishes prepared with a focus on the quality of ingredients. Plating is one area where Qatar never goes wrong. Here, you won't find steak sitting on your mashed potatoes or a trail of gravy stretching its way across one side of the plate; these guys can put the guys from MasterChef to shame. Watching a movie? Don't forget to buzz the flight attendant for a fresh tub of buttered popcorn.

WE RECOMMEND Classic Arabic mezze, Iranian mix grill.

Swiss Airlines

Rest assured, there's nothing neutral about the cuisine onboard the Swiss Airlines. Here, you dine as you would in a gourmet restaurant — choosing your own menu and placing an order mid-afternoon or evening, never mind what the clock has to say about it. What Switzerland lacks in area, it makes up with the largesse of its cuisine — a fact that finds ample reflection in the menu book of its national airline. While top chefs across the globe present fliers with highlights from their individual culinary treasuries, a large part of the menu devotes itself to delicacies from the local cuisine. If you desire a taste of the Swiss heartlands, here's news. Through the latter half of this year, Swiss first and business class passengers will get a chance to sample culinary delights acquired from the canton of Geneva. Go wild on beef tenderloin with ofetori, Nidwalden-style mashed potatoes made with veal bacon and cheese, even whole chunks of the local Swiss cheese — nobody's judging.

WE RECOMMEND Chicken cordon bleu, braised lamb shank.

A DAY IN THE

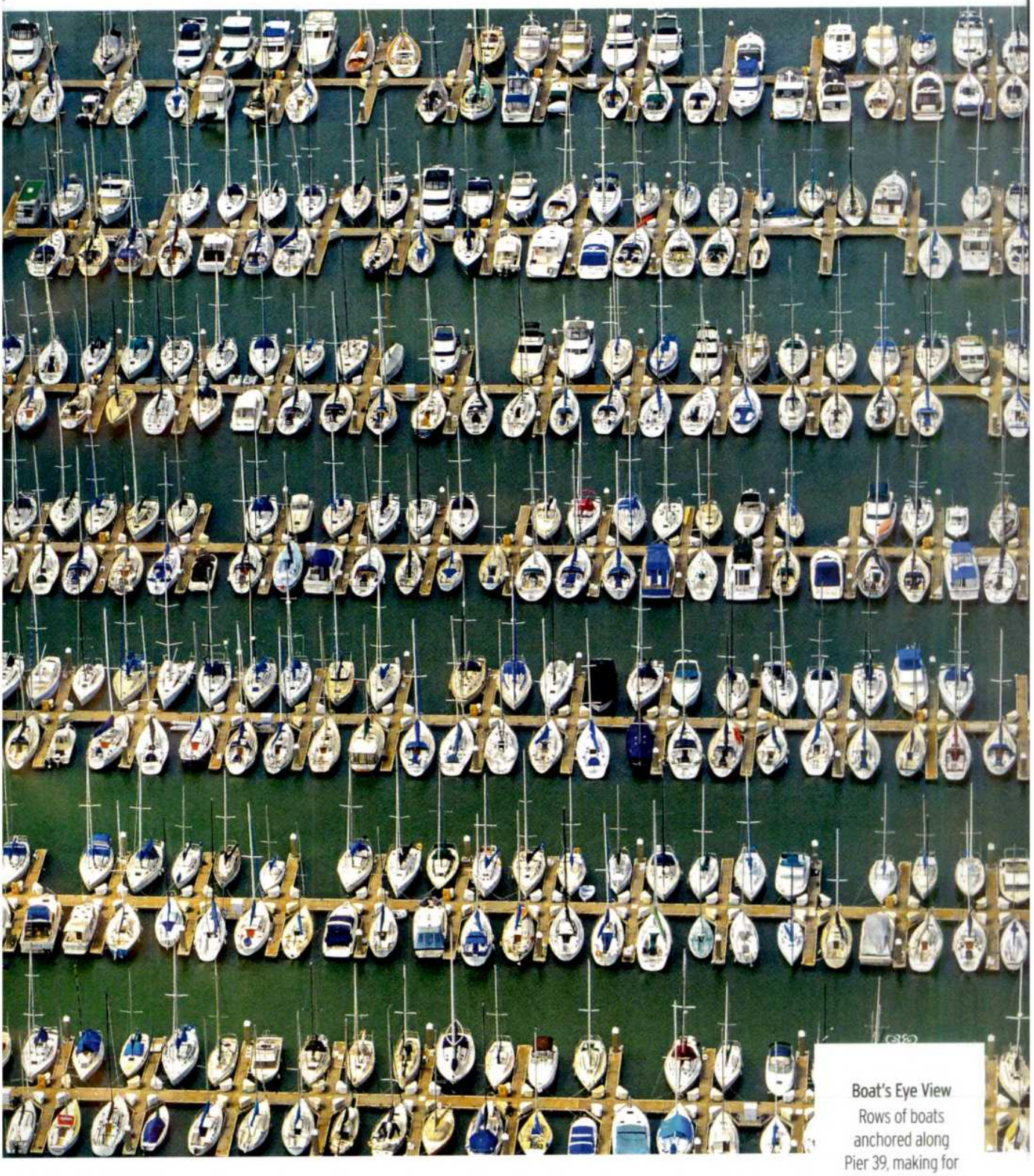
A moment in time; a time of day; a city by the bay that tour

Riding the Tram Commuters make a postcard-perfect picture as they use the iconic cable car at Union Square, San Francisco.

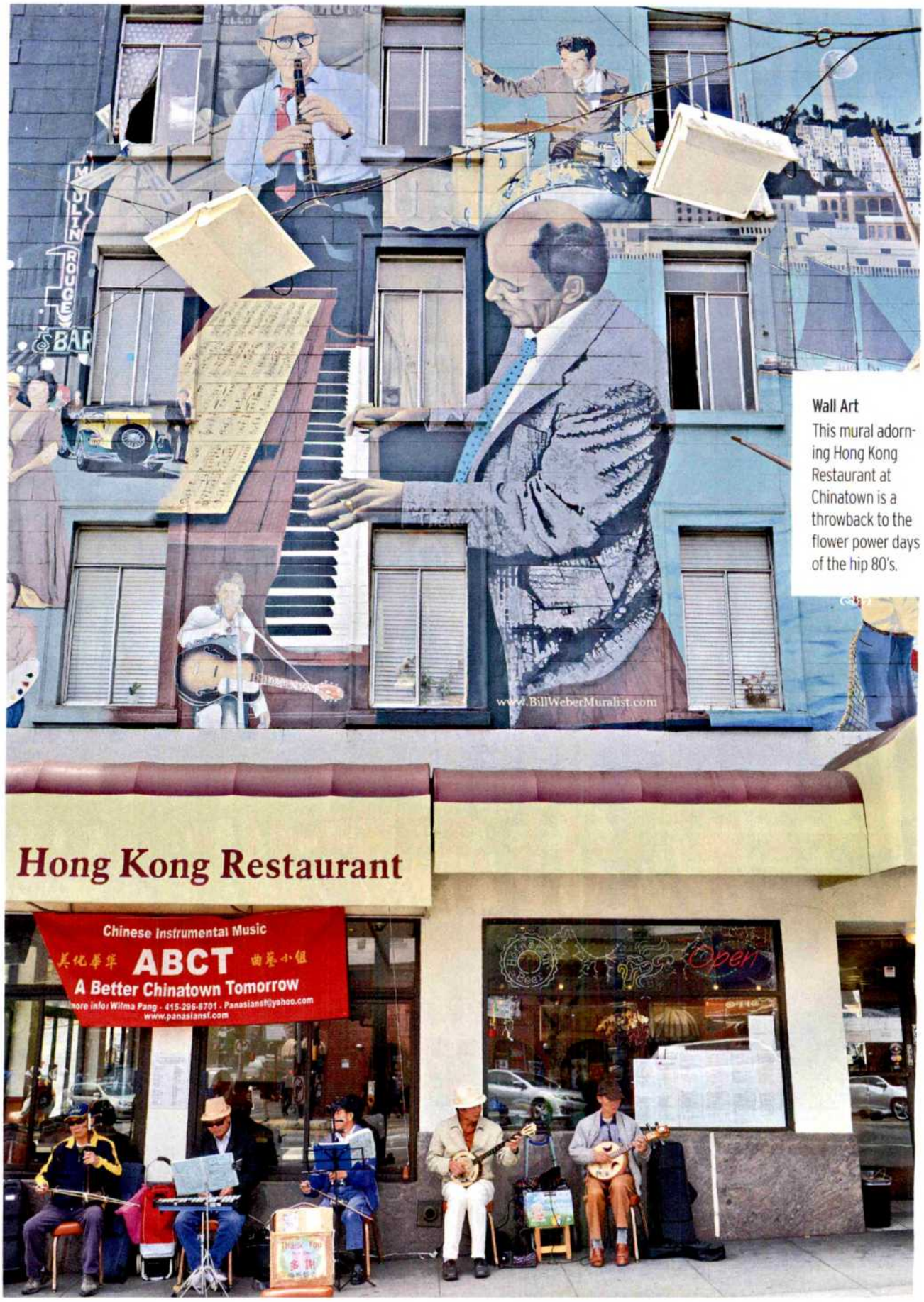
LIFE OF FRISCO

. Photographer **Mandar Deodhar** captures the best of San Francisco

Bagpipe Dream
Passersby look back admiringly as a kilt-clad man plays Scottish tunes on his bagpipes at Union Square.

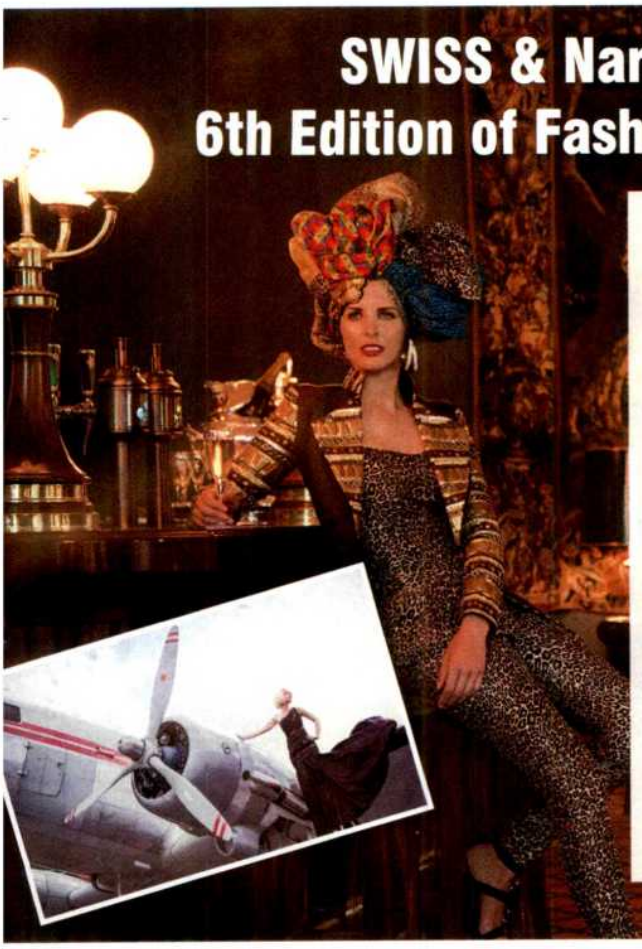


Boat's Eye View
Rows of boats anchored along Pier 39, making for an aerial view that could charm any camera.



Wall Art
This mural adorning Hong Kong Restaurant at Chinatown is a throwback to the flower power days of the hip 80's.

SWISS & Narendra Kumar Unveil 6th Edition of Fashion-Art Calendar 2014/15



The sixth edition of the SWISS- Narendra Kumar calendar 2014/15 was unveiled on 25th July 2014. This fashion-art calendar from SWISS is a much awaited collector's Item amongst the who's who of the country. This year the theme of the calendar is "Swiss Hospitality". Switzerland is not only known worldwide for its high quality dairy products, exclusive watches and banks but also the excellence in hospitality. It is a centre for excellence in hotel management and hospitality.

Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) is Switzerland's national airline and is known for its personalized services and remarkable hospitality, in the air and on ground as well. SWISS is deeply rooted to the country's traditional values and culture, "Thus the theme of Swiss Hospitality is a perfect match to this year's calendar. We are proud to say that our hospitality is as legendary as our landscape" said Markus Altenbach, General Manager for SWISS in India. The SWISS-Narendra Kumar masterfully brings together breath-taking views, Indian high fashion, beautiful SWISS crew and elegant styling blended into a seamless world of Swiss hospitality.

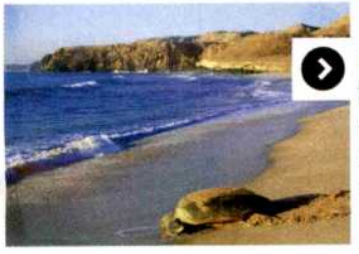
Oman - The Secret of Arabia

We reveal to you some secrets of Oman that will surely surprise you.

• ***Date the Dolphins*** – Hundreds of dolphins jump in the air acrobatically and swim in the blue waters of Oman.

• ***Dune Bashing*** - The sand dunes of Oman are among the highest in the world. Imagine the adrenaline thrill when you dune bash or ride like a breeze on an ATV bike over the golden sands of Oman.

• ***Beautiful Beaches*** – Whoever thought Oman only has a desert landscape will surely be in for a shock. Oman boasts of some of the most pristine beaches in the world



• ***Turtle Watching*** – Who would have thought that thousands of giant turtles come and nest in Oman? Watch the natural process of nesting and hatching in front of your naked eyes.

• ***Discover the Underwater Magic*** – The waters of Oman are home to countless species of fish and vast stretches of exotic coral reefs.

Meal with a View

Sunset Grill is now Chennai's hottest joint, with good reason. BY SARANYA CHAKRAPANI

THERE ARE A GREAT MANY THINGS THAT GO in favour of the Westin Chennai, the foremost being the fact that it's the only five-star hotel that caters to the Velachery-OMR belt and its substantial IT populace. So, when they opened their third F&B outlet, a 52-cover alfresco grill house, it caused quite a buzz among software professionals looking for a weekend haunt. The new restaurant, Sunset Grill, takes one of the property's prettiest spots on the second level, above the pool, in a canopy of palm trees and flowering plants. It serves classics from the Arabian, Middle Eastern, European and Indian cuisines with a focus on the original flavours. While there is a tendency to steer clear of restaurants that are 'multi-cuisine', this one does not disappoint.

Open only for dinner, the meal at Sunset Grill is best enjoyed at a leisurely pace. You should begin with one of the appertisers. I would recommend the bharwan-ekhumb (mushrooms filled with cheese and spices, cooked in tandoor) and periperi prawns (spicy and zesty marinade, pan grilled, with an incredible periperi sauce made in-house). Both are exceptional.

The mains have all-time classics like tenderloin steak, t-bone steak and Norwegian salmon — which also happens to be a Westin specialty. The jumbo prawns melt in your mouth, and are easily the best you can find. However, we thought traditional dishes like the Bratwurst sausages should have been more refined in preparation and flavour. You can also opt for their signatures — the baby back barbeque ribs (18 oz jumbo melting ribs with Oklahoma fries, bean cassoulet and grilled green onions) and Brazilian mixed grill (pork belly, churrasco sausages, tenderloin flanks, chicken drumsticks and beef liver served with Oklahoma fries and garden salad). End the meal with the heavenly New York cheesecake and mango coulis, which floors you with an explosion of striking flavours.

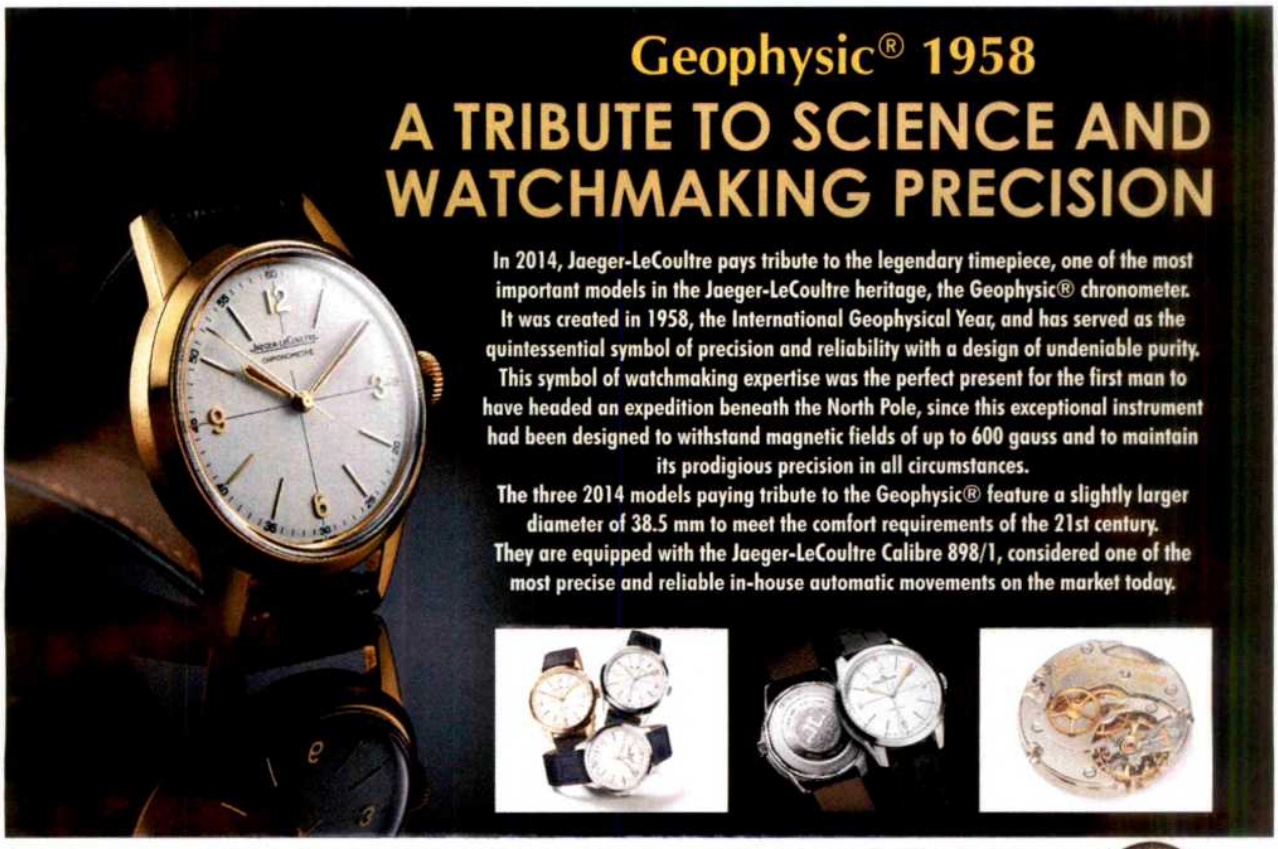
Bharwan-e-khumb
Brazilian mixed grill

Meal for two
(taxes extra)
₹4,500

154, Velachery
Main Road

044-22553366

The restaurant occupies the prettiest spot at the Westin Chennai. ▲



Geophysic® 1958

A TRIBUTE TO SCIENCE AND WATCHMAKING PRECISION

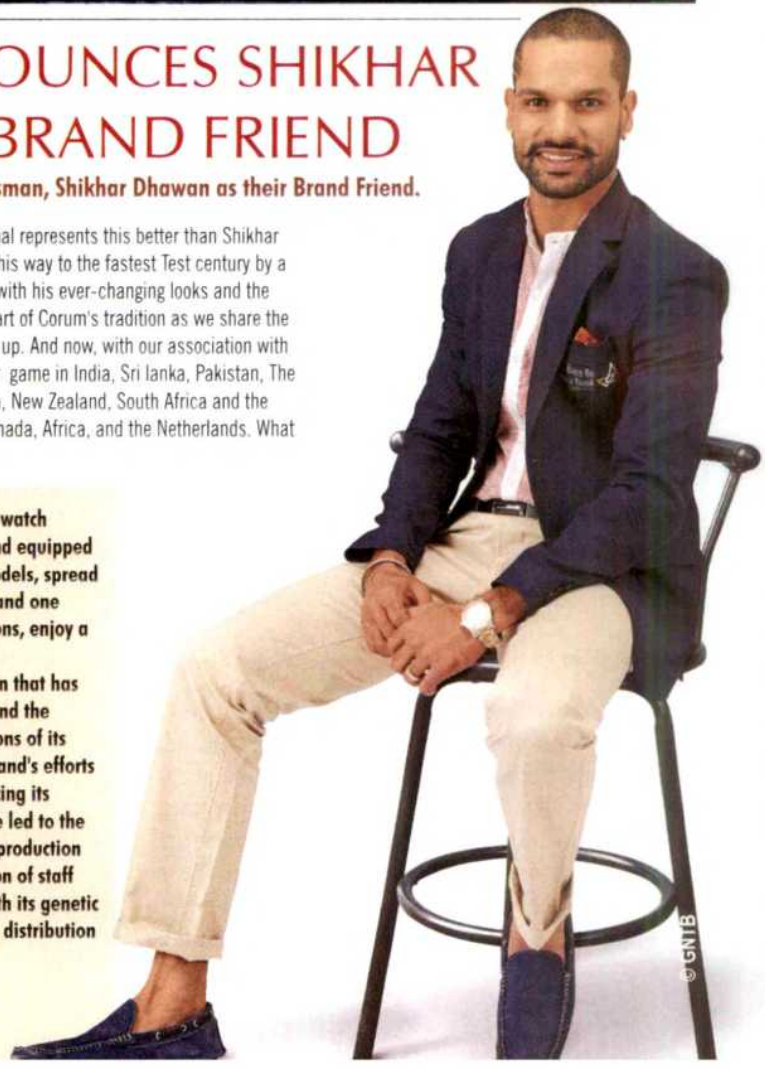
In 2014, Jaeger-LeCoultre pays tribute to the legendary timepiece, one of the most important models in the Jaeger-LeCoultre heritage, the Geophysic® chronometer. It was created in 1958, the International Geophysical Year, and has served as the quintessential symbol of precision and reliability with a design of undeniable purity. This symbol of watchmaking expertise was the perfect present for the first man to have headed an expedition beneath the North Pole, since this exceptional instrument had been designed to withstand magnetic fields of up to 600 gauss and to maintain its prodigious precision in all circumstances.

The three 2014 models paying tribute to the Geophysic® feature a slightly larger diameter of 38.5 mm to meet the comfort requirements of the 21st century. They are equipped with the Jaeger-LeCoultre Calibre 898/1, considered one of the most precise and reliable in-house automatic movements on the market today.

CORUM INDIA ANNOUNCES SHIKHAR DHAWAN AS ITS BRAND FRIEND

Corum India is proud to announce the blooming batsman, Shikhar Dhawan as their Brand Friend.

Each Corum timepiece celebrates intense life and power, and no individual represents this better than Shikhar Dhawan. He is known to have stunned all observers, when he stroked his way to the fastest Test century by a debutant at Mohali in 2012-13. Popular for his flamboyant personality with his ever-changing looks and the twirled moustache, Shikhar is an instant crowd favorite. Sports (Sailing) is part of Corum's tradition as we share the same values: self motivation and discipline, pushing one's limit, never giving up. And now, with our association with Shikhar Dhawan, Corum proudly enters the world of cricket, the most popular game in India, Sri lanka, Pakistan, The West Indies and the UAE, second only to football and other sports in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom. It is also one of the fastest growing sports in places like Canada, Africa, and the Netherlands. What better way to opening a new trend and a new way to engage with our fans.



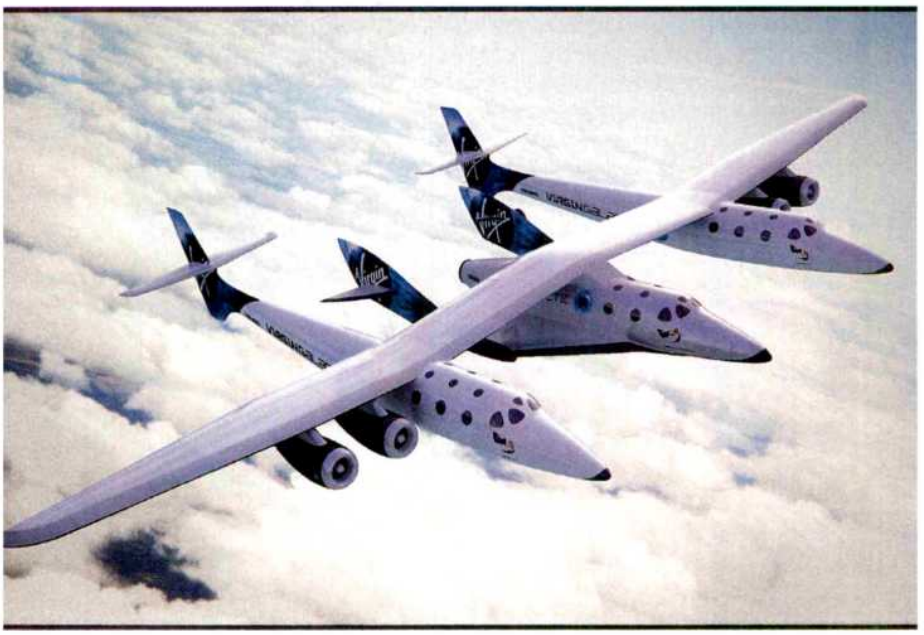
ABOUT CORUM

Positioned as an exclusive brand, CORUM offers high-quality watch collections featuring an innovative and distinctive design, and equipped with sophisticated mechanical movements. Its 150 current models, spread between two key pillars – Admiral's Cup and Corum Bridges and one satellite pillar composed of the Artisans and Vintage collections, enjoy a legitimacy rooted in the brand history.

Since 2005, CORUM has undergone a complete transformation that has enabled it to achieve a perfect match between the products and the demands for quality and creativity that are the very foundations of its credibility. Its firmly upscale move is a logical result of the brand's efforts to recapture its historical standing while significantly reinforcing its horological substance. CORUM's substantial investments have led to the integration of watchmaking profession, the development of production tools, the enhancement of human resources and the promotion of staff training. The result is a brand once again entirely in tune with its genetic heritage. The brand's development strategy is now set on the distribution and communication.

TEST YOUR CREDIT LIMIT

Got more moolah than you can handle? Five extravagant experiences that border on the audacious.



VIRGIN GALACTIC SPACESHIPTWO

Price $250,000

Skimming through the star-studded expanse of the Milky Way ensconced in a spaceship of luxurious proportions is now a fantasy within your reach, thanks to the enterprising efforts of Richard Branson. It comes, of course, at a price. The two subtorial spacecrafts of the Virgin Galactic SpaceShipTwo have plush, roomy interiors, fitted with recliners and a well-stocked mini-bar. The space-immersion experience requires training sessions that demonstrate skills of floating in zero gravity without bumping into co-passengers. Zero what, you ask? Watch some *Big Bang Theory*.

GUMBALL RALLY 3000

Price $60,000

Menacing headlights glow as it lets out a low growl and arches its back. Unable to take your eyes of its raw muscle power, you step back and the supercar disappears in a cloud of dust. The Gumball Rally 300 is where the top honchos of the auto world come to show off their metal monsters. What's more, the seven-day road trip from Miami to Ibiza relies on uninhibited partying to soothe your tired limbs after hours of driving.

SILVERSEA WORLD CRUISE

Price $60,000 onward

If you have over 100 days to spare this year, consider booking yourself on the Silversea World Cruise. This Titanic-esque mammoth cruise liner, without any associated misfortune, offers an enthralling glide through Spain, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Great Barrier Reef, among others. With an onboard spending credit of $2,500, wine flows freely so long as you don't fall overboard.

KITCHO RESTAURANT, KYOTO

Price $600 for two

A few hundred dollars shouldn't mean much when you are having the dinner of a lifetime. Kitcho restaurant in Kyoto, helmed by celebrity chef Kunio Tokuoka, serves a culinary extravaganza that is hailed as the most extraordinary (and the most expensive) meal in the world. In here, you will come across the rarest caviar and the most architecturally artful kaiseki dishes amid a gold-gilded environment that brings the Yamato royalty to mind.

PRESIDENT WILSON HOTEL, GENEVA

Price $67,000 onward

Remember the time you promised the world to your loved one? Well, all's not lost, because you can at least partially fufill it by booking a suite at the Royal Penthouse in Geneva's Hotel President Wilson. Perched on the eighth floor of the hotel, it is spread over 5,500 sq feet and overlooks the stunning Lake Geneva. As for the experience, it has every creature comfort you can think of — a deluxe fitness centre, a fully stocked bar, even a grand piano.

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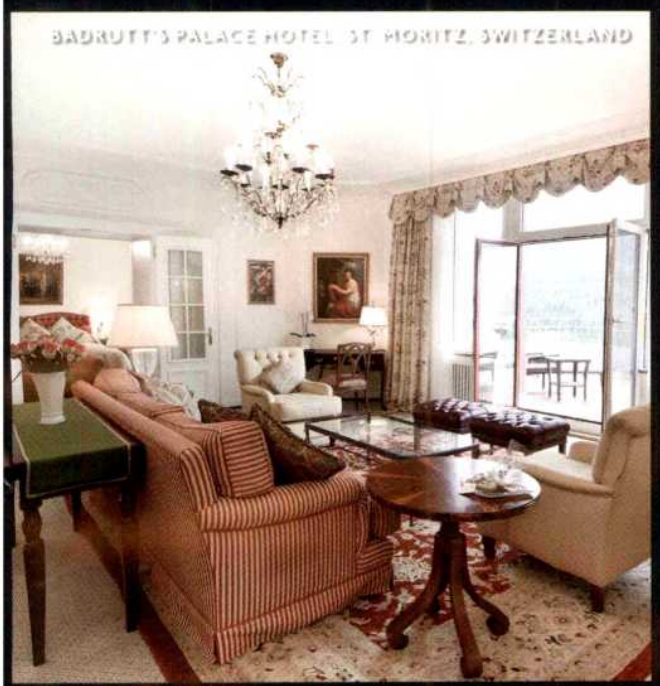
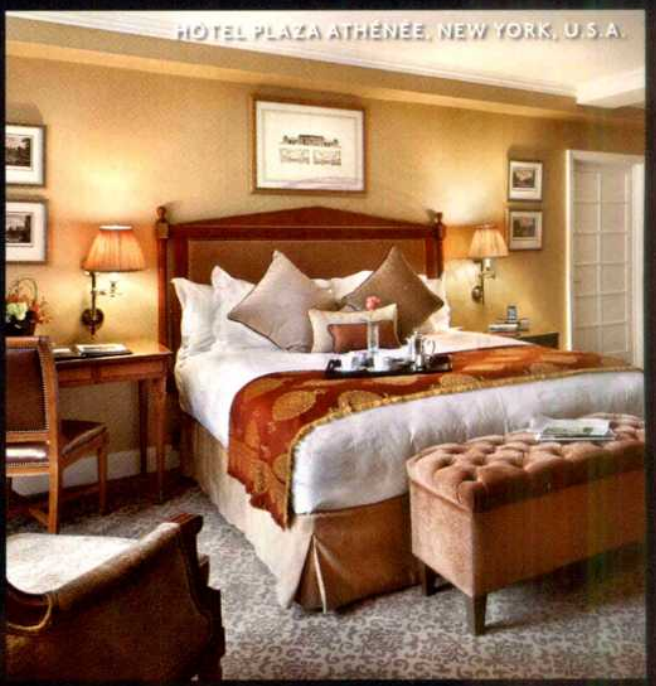
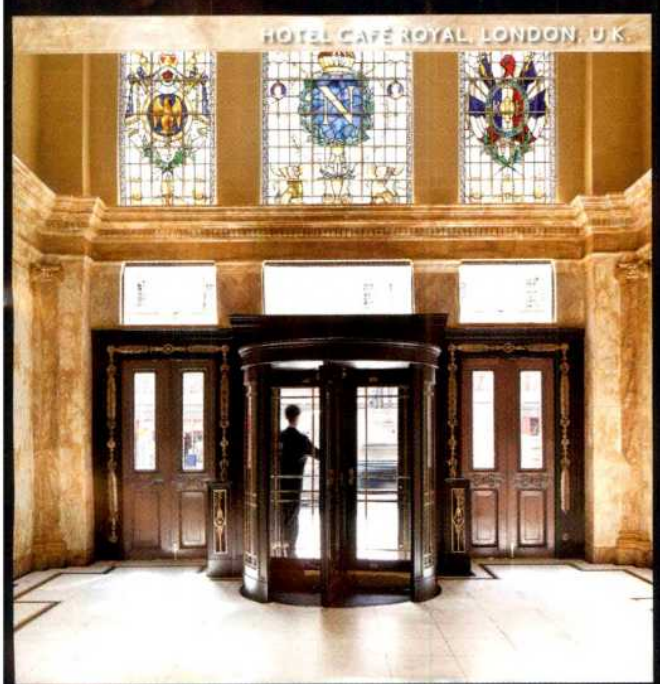
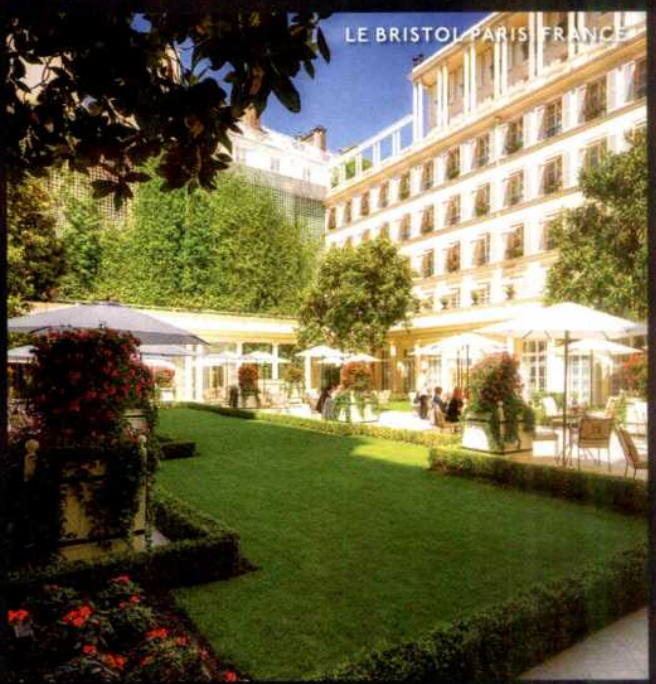

BADRUTT'S PALACE HOTEL, ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND


HOTEL PLAZA ATHENÉE, NEW YORK, U.S.A.


HOTEL CAFÉ ROYAL, LONDON, U.K.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TIME ON MY MIND

WATCH SPECIAL

Tommy Hilfiger, Designer

"Supplement to Business Today issue dated November 23 2014".

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PHOTO EDITOR
VIVAN MEHRA

PRODUCTION
HARISH AGGARWAL
(CHIEF OF PRODUCTION),
NARENDRA SINGH, RAJESH VERMA

GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ASHISH BAGGA

GROUP SYNERGY & CREATIVE OFFICER
KALLI PURIE

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MANOJ SHARMA

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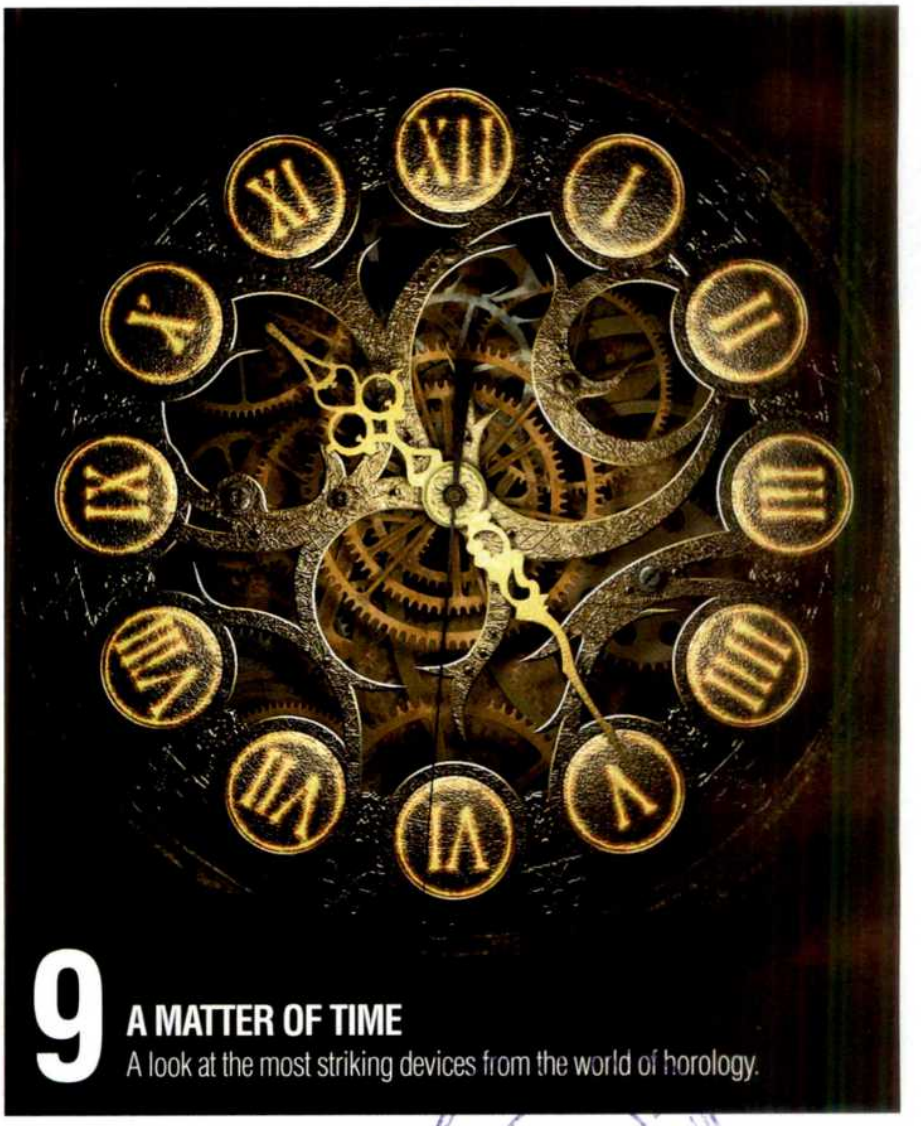

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COVER BY
ROHIT CHAWLA
LOCATION COURTESY
LE CIRQUE, THE LEELA PALACE

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Get a Flight Upgrade

Flying economy? While there is no sure-fire way of achieving a bump-up to first class, here are five tips that can help.

Politeness is the best strategy in your quest for a flight upgrade ▲

A SMILE CAN TAKE YOU PLACES, sometimes even to the business class section of your flight. So, what is it that makes one impress the flight attendant enough to get that elusive flight upgrade? We scour a recent Skyscanner report for tips.

Travel off-peak This one's simple enough. The more you travel during off-peak days, the more likely you are to find empty seats in the business section.

Be early, or late While some flyers hold that checking in early increases your odds of scoring the last remaining seats in first class, others say that coming late could result in a bump-up due to overbooking of economy seats. Play this one by the ear.

Be polite This one's more of a universal rule, really. Be nice to the attendants, and they will be nice to you. Sometimes, nicer.

Rack up points Loyalty is usually rewarded. The more your frequent flyer miles with an airline, the greater are your chances of finding yourself in first class.

Wear your best suit You arrive at the airport in unwashed jeans and smelling like your kitchen sink. In the circumstances, how likely are you to land a seat with the Gucci-clad folk upstream?

IT'S A DATE

Events to attend this November

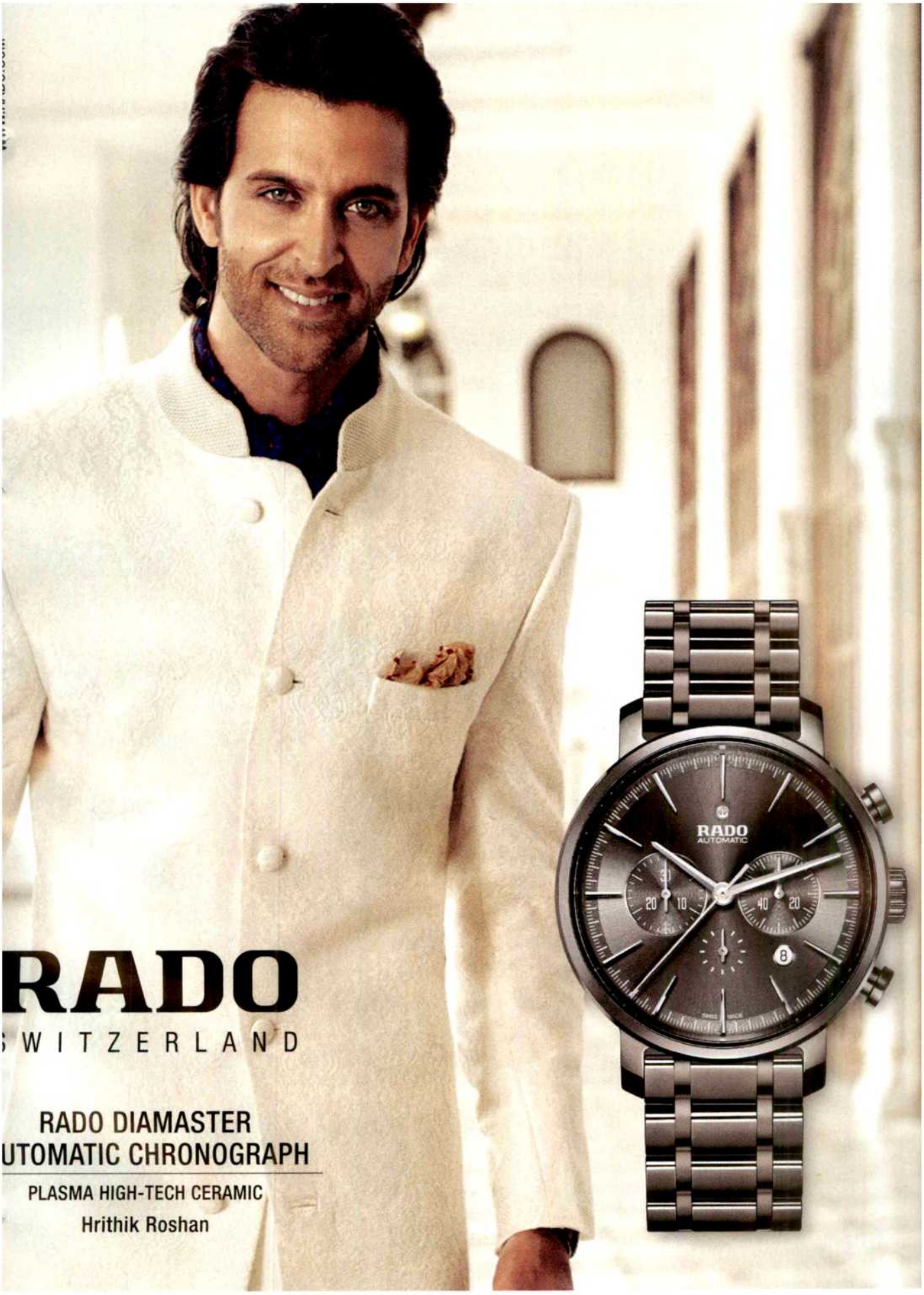
3 Head to the Winter Fine Art & Antiques Fair in London for your Picasso fix. The finest art and antiques on offer from 125 global dealers.

9 Have the time? The Palazzo Biscari in Catania, Italy, will host the annual Watch & Luxury Fair. Rub wrists with the likes of Breguet and Blancpain.

19 Fancy yourself as the next Howard Hughes? Visit the CEPA Expo in Prague, where experts will discuss the next big thing in aviation.

TRAVEL TO NZ, OZ ON SINGLE VISA

Travelling to catch the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015? Lucky you. A new agreement between New Zealand and Australia, co-hosts of the forthcoming tournament, allows you to travel between the two countries with just one visa. Under the Trans-Tasman visa arrangement, New Zealand will provide three-month visas on arrival to those holding eligible Australian visas, from January 25 to April 5, 2015. The policy will apply to new visa applicants as well as those with almost any kind of Australian visa. The ICC Cricket World Cup will be held from February 14 to March 29, 2015.



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'TIME IS MY BIGGEST LUXURY'

Fashion icon **Tommy Hilfiger** says India offers designers cutting-edge options

TEXT BY SAURAV BHANOT
PHOTOGRAPH BY ROHIT CHAWLA

TOMMY HILFIGER MAY BE A LOT OF THINGS, FROM maverick designer to fashion consultant on *American Idol*, but few know him as a direct descendant of Scottish poet Robert Burns. Nonetheless, there is undeniably an element of poetry in his creations, something that has elevated him to a position of prominence in the world of wardrobe choices. Hilfiger shares the true meaning of luxury, the importance of time in his busy life, and his personal connection with India.

TRUE LUXURY

Luxury is all about enjoying something you had never thought you could. It could be an exquisite watch, a yacht, staying in an exotic hotel or taking a trip; it is all about doing something you've always wanted to do. For me, however, luxury is about having time. I'd like a few more hours to spend with my family, and probably go on vacation. You can't enjoy your possessions unless you have time. However, if you ask me to name my most luxurious material possession, I would say it's my airplane.

TIMEPIECE LOGIC

We make watches that are modern and capable of being paired with various kinds of looks. You can pick our watches depending on what you plan to wear. And just like our clothes, our watches are luxurious but competitive in pricing. I believe an oversized face is very important for your watch. For instance, my 10th Anniversary Limited Edition, being a chrono, is thick in size. The watch takes inspiration from the air force, and its complicated dial is truly eye-catching. It also has a crocband, besides an engraving on the back that has my message for this beautiful country: "Tommy Hilfiger loves India".

THE INDIA CONNECT

India and I go back a long way. My first ever designs came out of here, and I have been making trips to this land for as many as 35 years now. I love the people here, the food, the smells, the fabric and the colour. When I first launched my brand in this country, Indians weren't too familiar with designer brands. Today, the same people have embraced my work and helped it grow exponentially. Sonam Kapoor is one celebrity whose dressing sense I've admired. She always carries herself with such elegance, it's a treat to the beholder. Most of the stars in Bollywood have also upped their style quotient.

> We make watches that are modern but inexpensive, and capable of being paired with various kinds of looks.

GOING BACK IN TIME

Looking back, there is a lot I remember about India. When I first came to New Delhi, I wanted to be a designer but had no clue about designing. I met a person with his own factory, the Ahuja-owned Shahi, and told him about my ideas. He made me draw my sketches on paper, and got a pattern maker to make a sample of it right there. A month later, I flew back to New York and got more orders. I did this for a long time. The Shahi factory, which once had a dirt floor and just 10 tailors, today employs close to 90,000 workers. And they still are great friends.

ADVANTAGE INDIA

The Indian fashion industry is moving, and moving very fast. Indian designers have a lot of things going for them. After all, the most beautiful fabrics are made here. Silks, embroidery, patterns... there's a lot for you to work with. What's more, Indian designers are making a big name for themselves globally. Just look at designers like Naeem Khan and Prabal Gurung. They are fantastic and have carved a niche for themselves.

GOING GLOCAL

Today's youngsters live on the Internet, and I must say it has blurred many a political border. As a brand, we have not differentiated between Indian buyers and others. Times are changing, and no brand is country-specific anymore. In this age of global brands and citizens, trends from across the world are welcome. Personally, I want to bring to Indian consumers exactly what I'm offering to others. Our consumers are, in a sense, the same no matter where they come from.

top shop

FASHION

Caped Crusader

Capes may not be the most obvious of winter picks, but those looking at upping their fashion game should certainly get one. Team it up with chinos for a relaxed day out in the sun, or wear it with formal pants for an extra touch of sophistication at work. A muted grey one, like this tweed **Valentino** piece exclusively available at Darveys.com, is a great pick for those who like to keep things subtle and classic.

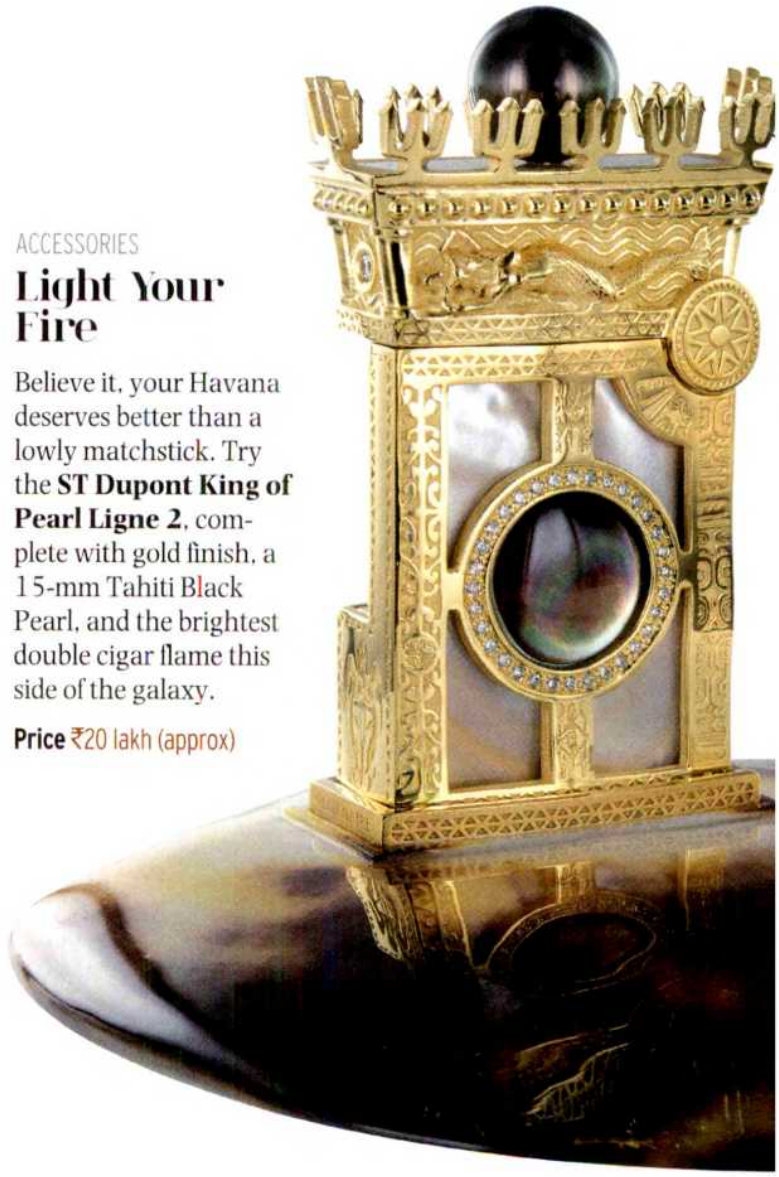
Price On request

ACCESSORIES

Light Your Fire

Believe it, your Havana deserves better than a lowly matchstick. Try the **ST Dupont King of Pearl Ligne 2**, complete with gold finish, a 15-mm Tahiti Black Pearl, and the brightest double cigar flame this side of the galaxy.

Price ₹20 lakh (approx)



HI-TECH WEARABLES

Tech for your Wrist

Fancy a smartwatch that blends hi-tech functionality with the elegance of an analogue timepiece? **Pebble Steel** provides you with everything from FB updates to e-connectivity at a pretty good deal.

Price ₹15,490 (approx)

GADGET CORNER

Luxe Call

Meet the 117-carat **Ve**
Aster, adorned by a 5.
inch piece of 5th genera
sapphire crystal front p
and hand-bound leathe
sourced from the most
puted tanneries across
world. Inside, you find
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2.3GHz 801 quad-core
cessor capable of delive
superfast speeds. What'
not to like, really?

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HER

ɔte This

nouflage is the certified trend of the son, and it works for both casual and nal occasions. This **Michael Kors** ;, for instance, will make its mark — ether at the lounge or boardroom.

:e On request

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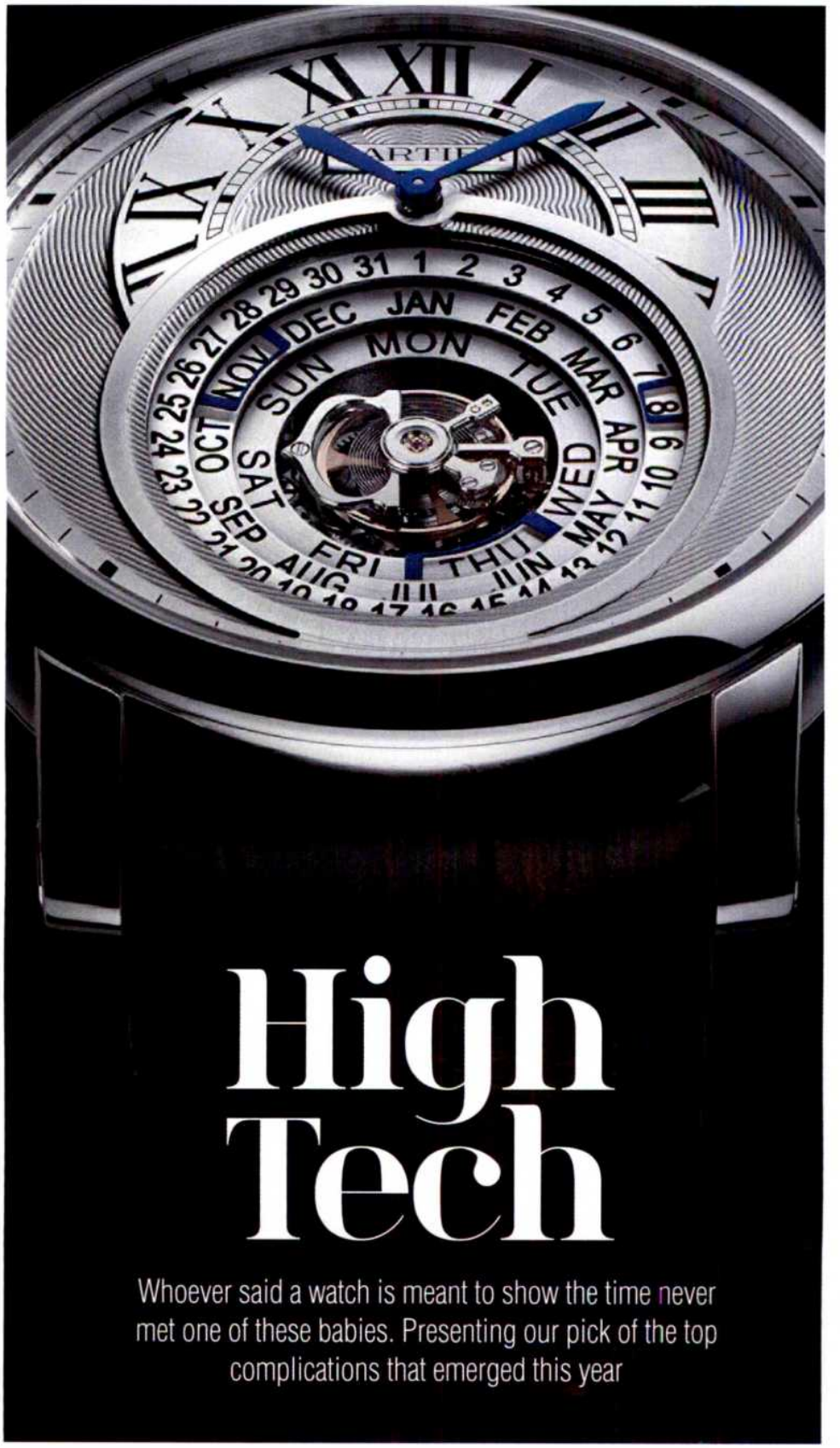
Time for CHANGE

Nothing stays the same, not even the watch industry. Presenting the best timepieces from 2014.

MYSTERIOUS AND INTANGIBLE, TIME IS A FORCE OF NATURE WITH the power to transform. And since it's an entity that rules our lives, celebrating it becomes all the more important. Every year, the watch industry pays tribute to this grand force by showcasing the finest timepieces created by its experts.

Swiss watchmaking has evolved over the last few decades, and today, watchmaking is both an art and a science, given how precise and detailed the creative process is. Be it the amalgamation of modern technology with the traditional mechanical movement or the acquisition of family and individual-owned enterprises by large conglomerates, the watch industry is pulling out all stops to ring in a brand new age. The latest innovations in the industry were showcased at the two international watch fairs, the Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie and the Baselworld Watch and Jewellery Fair, held in Switzerland earlier this year. Many an object of Swiss ingenuity was unveiled here, from the world's first Osium timepiece to the thinnest minute repeater yet. The Swiss timepiece industry stands tall today, unfazed even in the face of the smartwatch threat. After all, new-age gadgets may come and go, but the ancient art of horology lives on.



High Tech

Whoever said a watch is meant to show the time never met one of these babies. Presenting our pick of the top complications that emerged this year

FEW FIELDS WITNESS as much innovation as horology, from the incorporation of modern complications to the use of new materials. Complications, by concept and production, are defined as functions that go beyond mere timekeeping, whether it's the perpetual calendar, moon-phase indicator, tourbillon or the minute repeater. From the technological marvels featured in our list, feast your senses on Montblanc's timepiece tribute to Nicolas Rieussec; Bulgari's revisitation of the 19th century detent escapement technology; and the world's thinnest minute repeater, as found in Jaeger-LeCoultre's Hybris Mechanica 11. Presenting the most practical complications, chronographs and anti-magnetic technologies that were showcased in the Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie and the Baselworld Watch and Jewellery Fair this year.

A. Lange & Sohne
GRAND LANGE 1 MOONPHASE

A genuine eye-catcher, the lunar disc in the hour-and-minute circle reproduces the so-called synodic month of 29.531 days with 99.998 per cent accuracy. Made of 446 parts.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement L095.3 calibre
Case material Pink gold

Jaeger-LeCoultre
HYBRIS MECHANICA 11

This mechanical marvel is equipped with a flying tourbillon, a high-performance balance spring, a peripheral automatic winding system and the thinnest minute repeater yet, at a mere 7.99mm.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement 362 calibre
Case material 18-carat white gold

Richard Mille
RM 36-01

Inspired by Sebastien Loeb, the RM 36-01 improves upon the mechanical G-force sensor tech that has taken the racing world by storm, indicating G-forces up to 6 G's and proving to be a speedster's best friend.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement RM36-01 calibre
Case material Titanium

Blancpain
QUANTIEME PERPETUEL

So, what's great about the Villeret Quantieme Perpetuel 8 Jours? Month and leap indicators that don't need adjusting till the year 2100; an attractive moon phase at 6 o'clock; and a broad sapphire case-back that reveals the grace of its mechanism.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement 5939A calibre
Case material Platinum/ 18-carat red gold

Bulgari
AMMIRAGLIO DEL TEMPO

A watch that looks as good as it feels, the Ammiraglio del Tempo from Bulgari features a minute repeater activated by an innovative slide, a Westminster chime, and a 19th century detent escapement used in combination with a modern constant force device.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Power reserve 48 hours
Case material 18-carat gold

Parmigiani
TORIC RESONANCE 3

While it's not the first time that a large date has been combined with a minute repeater, nobody has ever offered instantaneous rotation of such a colossal date either. Also, can anybody doubt the melody of a Parmigiani chime?

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement PF359 calibre
Case material 18-carat white gold

Ulysse Nardin
DUAL TIME MANUFACTURE

A boon for frequent travellers, this baby makes adjusting the second time zone backward as easy as forward. It also boasts of a silicon escapement — a watchmaking marvel that few have been able to master.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement UN-334 calibre
Case material Steel

Hublot
CF TOURBILLON FIRMAMENT

In a first, this watch uses Osium, the rarest metal on Earth, on the dial of its skeleton tourbillon. The result? A stunner of a watch.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement HUB6017 calibre
Case material Black ceramic

DUNCANS
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watches

Longines
24 HOURS SINGLE PUSH PIECE CHRONOGRAPH

Remember the pretty aviation watches from our yesteryears? Displaying the time in a 24-hour loop, the layout of this watch provides an interesting glimpse into the entire day with a single glance at the dial.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement L789.2 calibre
Case material Steel

Montblanc
HOMAGE TO NICOLAS RIEUSSEC

Replicating the 1821 'TimeWriter' with a modern twist, this device shows elapsed time through two rotating discs on the LumiNova-pigmented dial — above which the motionless hand indicates the elapsed seconds and minutes. Pure magic.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement MB R200 calibre
Case material Steel

Rado
DIAMASTER AUTOMATIC CERAMIC CHRONOGRAPH XXL

What shines like metal, feels like metal, but is 100 per cent ceramic? You're right — it's this baby from Rado, the pioneers in ceramic technology. Unlike metal watches, this one is scratch-resistant and hypoallergenic.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement ETA 2894-2 calibre
Case material Ceramic

Oris
ARTIX POINTER MOON DATE

Tired of the traditional moonphase indicator? This baby shows the lunar cycle in addition to its traditional date function with a deceptively simple pointer.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement 761 calibre
Case material Steel

Opening Shortly

Pride Hotel, Delhi Aerocity

The Pride Hotels win **"Best Emerging five star luxury hotel chain"** award at the World Travel Brands.

Delivering world class hospitality

The Pride Hotel will make its presence in last quarter of this year in Delhi at Aerocity. The 5 star property with 385 rooms will exceed the expectations of its guests in every manner. Discover indulgent modern architecture outside and luxurious rooms, fine dining, gym, spa pool, large banquet facilities and service inspired by the greatest

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After Hours

Let time be on your side, whether you are diving in the deep sea or spelunking in a gloomy cave. A look at the hardiest watches to emerge this year.

SOME SAY THE WORK-LIFE BALANCE IS dead, but we think otherwise. Success lies not only in number crunching and keeping an eye on financial flowcharts, but also pushing yourself beyond the limits of the boardroom when the opportunity presents itself. And whether your life's about globetrotting, scaling steep rock faces or exploring the depths of the ocean, you will always need a timepiece that stands up to the challenges that surround you.

The watches featured here combine robustness and functionality with cutting-edge features that promise to aid you in any eventuality. From the speed-loving G.P.M.H. Power Control by Chopard to the Rolex GMT-Master II, feel your adrenaline surge as we take you from sport to sport, timepiece to timepiece.

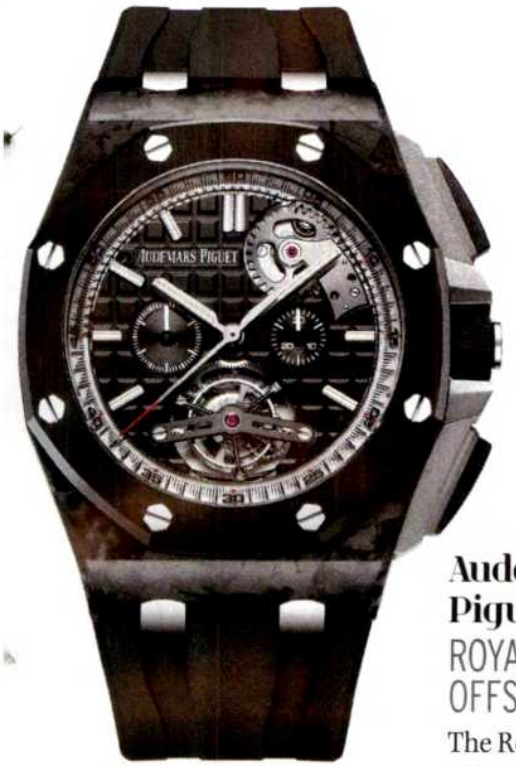
Rolex
GMT-MASTER II

If you are among those who breakfast in Kingston and dine in Kyoto, it's only advisable that you be accompanied by the GMT-Master II. Featuring a rotatable 24-hour graduated bezel and a separate 24-hour hand, it allows globetrotters to read three different time zones, two of them simultaneously.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK

Movement 3186 calibre

Case material Steel



Audemars Piguet
ROYAL OAK OFFSHORE

The Royal Oak is a micro-mechanical masterpiece decorated entirely by hand to create an effect that's as artistic as it is rugged. A chronograph designed to counter gravity, its tourbillon ensures that not one beat is skipped while carrying out its functions.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement 2897 calibre
Case material Forged Carbon/ Titanium

IWC
AQUATIMER DEEP 3

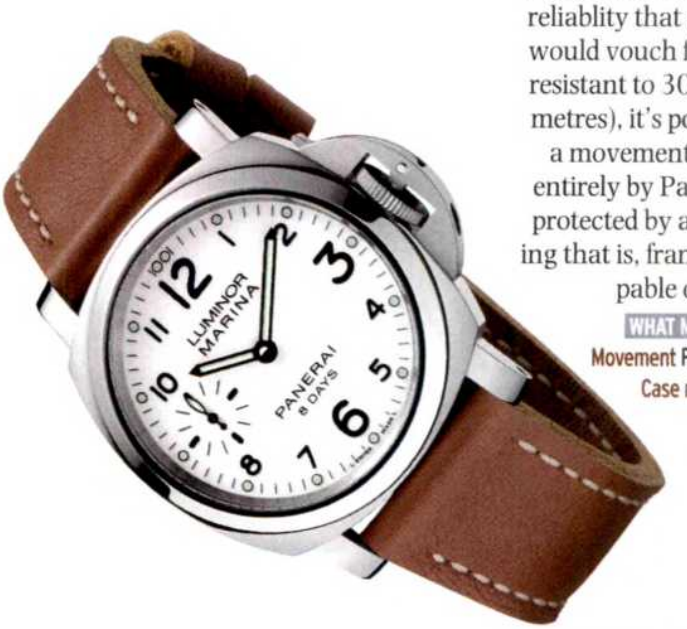
This diver's watch features a range of advanced features, from a mechanical depth gauge and a body capable of 10 bar (100 metres) water resistance to provisions for effecting data backup to the dive computer.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement 30120 calibre
Case material Titanium

Panerai
LUMINOR MARINA 8 DAYS

The Luminor Marina may look simple, but within it lies mechanical reliablity that any sailor would vouch for. Water resistant to 30 bar (300 metres), it's powered by a movement executed entirely by Panerai and protected by a steel casing that is, frankly, incapable of rusting.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement P.5000 calibre
Case material Steel



Breitling
EMERGENCY II

Just the thing for lone adventurers. Capable of transmitting SOS signals through a dual-channel emergency satellite transmitter, it's your best bet to safety if stuck between a rock and a hard place.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement SuperQuartz calibre 76
Case material Titanium

Zenith
PILOT MONTRE D'AÉRONEF TYPE 20 GMT

A tribute to the Wright Brothers, this watch from the masters of aviation instrumentation is crafted specifically for pilots, right from the generous Arabic numerals to the perfectly grippable ratcheted crown.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement Elite 693, automatic
Case material Titanium with DLC

Chopard
G.P.M.H. POWER CONTROL

Inspired by the classic single-seaters of the 1970s, the GPMH Power Control has a snailed grey dial to complement its 18-carat gold bezel and a movement chronometer-certified by COSC.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Power reserve 46 hours
Case material Titanium

Omega
SEAMASTER 300

This dive watch may be faithful to its '50s predecessor in style, but it incorporates all the latest Omega innovations in its exquisite shell, whether it's resistance to magnetic fields over 15,000 gauss or a 60-hour power reserve.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement Master Co-Axial calibre 8400
Case material Steel/Titanium

Graham
CHRONOFIGHTER LA KINGS

Built to commemorate the LA Kings ice hockey team, this instrument is equipped with an automatic chronograph and an Incabloc shock absorber capable of withstanding the hardest of falls. A black ceramic bezel gives the watch, limited to just 100 pieces, its personality.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK

Movement G1747 calibre
Case material Steel, with white diamond

Carl F. Bucherer
PATRAVI TRAVELTEC FOURX

A must-have for frequent fliers, the Patravi Traveltec FourX simultaneously indicates three time zones, ensuring that you are never late for a business meeting in a foreign country due to a temporal misunderstanding. What's more, its 18-carat gold-ceramic-titanium shell is just the thing to make you stand out in a crowd.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK

Movement CFB 1901.1 calibre
Case material 18-carat rose gold

Corum
ADMIRAL'S CUP AC-1 45 SQUELETTE

Paying tribute to yachts as well as the waves that power them, this watch offers complete immersion into the intricate horological workings under its shell. And don't be fooled by it's fragile looks; this baby's tough, and water resistant up to 300 metres.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK

Movement CO 082 calibre
Case material Grade 5 Titanium

watches

Tissot
T-RACE MOTOGP

Black-red with a checkered flag for its dial, this instrument showcases the very synergy that bonds Tissot and MotoGP. Adding to its machismo is a chronograph that's accurate to the T, and water resistance up to 10 bar. What's more, it comes in a zany helmet-shaped case.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement C01.211
Case material Stainless steel

Tag Heuer
CARRERA MONACO GP

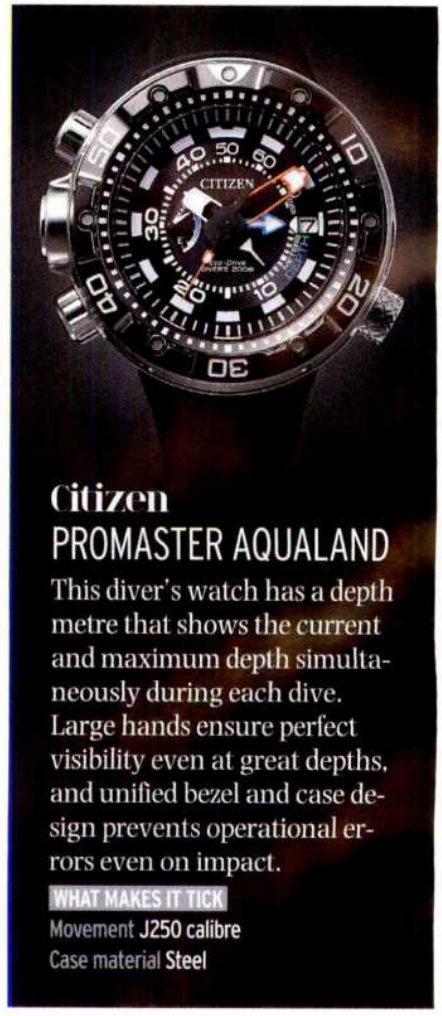
Everything about this timepiece screams F1, right from its tyre-treaded rubber strap to the fetching dial in pitch black with two grey stripes and a red line. The Arabic numerals on the dial are plated with exquisite 'black gold', and the case is coated with titanium carbide.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement 1887 calibre
Case material Titanium Grade 2

Seiko
VELATURA KINETIC DIRECT DRIVE

A part of Seiko's marine sports series, the Velatura Kinetic Direct Drive has become the blue-eyed watch among sailing enthusiasts. The timepiece is built to withstand the challenges of extreme water racing, and is water resistant up to 100 metres.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement 5D88 calibre
Case material Steel with blue-rose gold



Citizen
PROMASTER AQUALAND

This diver's watch has a depth metre that shows the current and maximum depth simultaneously during each dive. Large hands ensure perfect visibility even at great depths, and unified bezel and case design prevents operational errors even on impact.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement J250 calibre
Case material Steel

WISH

Companies today need hardworking furniture which is also aesthetically appealing and contemporary in style. Wish is India's 1st ever modular desk based system with excellent sturdiness coupled with contemporary sleek look. A unique combination of a tile based and a panel based system, with open-able tiles which provides flexibility and strength along with gapless honey comb block partition with linear panels which provides contemporary look.

Wish is an Architect friendly product. No more worries of losing space or reducing workstations due to a pillar or an obstruction in between, with such wide range of finishes comprising of various height and width options Wish optimally uses the space and fits seamlessly to various layouts without losing the number of workstations. Its design supports a unique trend of horizontal expanse.

Wish gives an office a sense of open-ness. Its 6 feet wide monolithic panels give a clutter-free appearance while its glass paneling adds to the contemporary sleek look. An elevated workstation helps in air circulation as well as easy maintenance along with a lighter look.

It's a perfect choice for any modern day office with its extensive wire management system and easily accessible inner frame, also multiple options of trendy accessories that can be mounted on the screen.

Godrej interio

THE TAG HEUER CARRERA MIKROPENDULUMS

AN EXCLUSIVE TAG HEUER PATENTED TECHNOLOGY: THE FIRST EVER MAGNETIC DOUBLE TOURBILLON

By far the most intricate and iconic complication of Haute Horlogerie, a tourbillon is a mechanical system for regulating the speed at which a watch beats: it overcomes the effects of gravity by placing the balance wheel and escapement inside a rotating cage. Until the TAG Heuer Carrera MikrotourbillonS launch last year, tourbillons were only made because of the beauty of the mechanism: they were considered 'novelty' features, slow and imprecise showcase of ornate complexity. The TAG Heuer Carrera MikrotourbillonS changed that overnight--it was faster and more accurate than any tourbillon ever made. The TAG Heuer Carrera MikroPendulumS is a TAG Heuer Carrera MikrotourbillonS with 2 magnetic Pendulums replacing the hairsprings, one for telling time and one for timekeeping. The Baselworld unveiling of the brand's latest concept piece has become a "can't-miss" moment among watch lovers. The new TAG Heuer Carrera MikroPendulumS is sure to give them a lot to talk about.

Precious Time

If time is as important as they say, shouldn't it be dressed in diamonds? Presenting the best in jewellery watches

IT TAKES A LOT OF PLANNING AND HARD WORK TO create a piece of perfect beauty, and who knows this better than the enamellers, gem-setters, guillocheurs, engravers and other master craftsmen engaged in the watch industry? After all, they fulfill quite a quixotic function, turning devices meant to showcase time into classics of a timeless nature. In this section, we focus on elegant pieces that, upon being strapped on the owner's wrist, shine with a light of their own. Whether it's artist Willard Wigan's nano-sculpture for the Art Piece-1 by Greubel Forsey, Cartier's floral marquetry, or the Fabuleux Ornements collection by Vacheron Constantin, there is many an object of desire to be appreciated in the pages that follow. Go ahead, be dazzled.

Greubel Forsey
ART PIECE I

Featuring a 30-degree inclined double tourbillon and a nano-sculpture on the dial that can be fully appreciated only through a microscope, this watch is the perfect marriage between artistic brilliance and elegant technology.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK

Movement GF02w calibre
Case material 18-carat white gold

ıcheron Constantin

:TIERS D'ARTS
BULEUX ORNEMENTS

expression of Vacheron Constantin's ›ertise in the field of design and deco-ion, this device demonstrates open-rking in 18-carat gold, a mere ›4mm, into four creations influenced Ottoman architecture, Chinese em-›idery, Indian manuscripts and ›nch lacework.

T MAKES IT TICK

ement 1003 sqrh2 calibre
material 18-carat gold

Cartier

BALLON BLEU FLORAL MARQUETRY

A timepiece, or is it a painting? With exquisite craftsmanship, diamonds, an emerald, and actual flower petals etched onto the plumage of an artistically sketched macaw parrot, you will have a winner on your wrist with this unique piece of work.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK

Movement 049 calibre
Case material Rhodium-plated white gold

Breguet
LES VOLANTS DE LA REINE

Harking back to the age of Queen Marie-Antoinette, this work of art combines brilliant cut diamonds with a mother-of-pearl dial and a gem-set bow that creates the feel of rustling frills. What's more, it comes with a jewellery set comprising a ring, a necklace and earrings.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement 586 calibre
Case material 18-carat white gold

Van Cleef & Arpels
LADY ARPELS ZODIAC SCORPIO

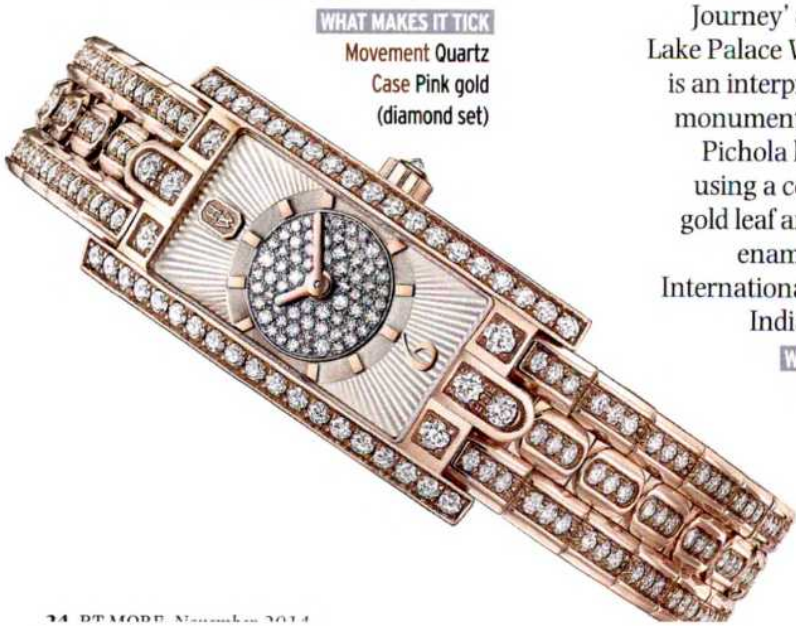
Drawing from nature and imagination, everything about this piece, right from its intricately sculpted mother-of-pearl dial to its exotic diamond artistry, evokes a world of harmony and beauty.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Dial Mother-of-pearl
Case material White gold

Harry Winston
AVENUE C MINI LILY CLUSTER

Eighteen-carat rose gold shell encrusted with 47 brilliant cut diamonds; mother-of-pearl dial set by diamond cluster motifs; water resistance up to three bars; looks that enthrall royalty. Finery doesn't get any finer.

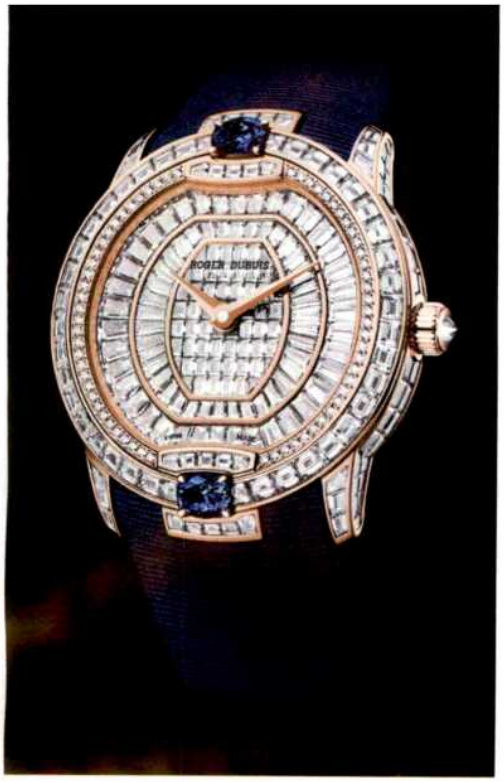
WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement Quartz
Case Pink gold (diamond set)



Piaget
ALTIPLANO DOUBLE JEU

A part of the 'Mythical Journey' collection, the Lake Palace Watch version is an interpretation of the monument on Udaipur's Pichola lake, rendered using a combination of gold leaf and champleve enamel on the dial. International brilliance in India-inspired art.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement 830P
Case White gold



Roger Dubuis
VELVET HAUTE JOAILLERIE

Like jewellery that's alive, this beauty from the Velvet Haute collection adorns your wrist with precious stones and sapphires while stridently ticking on at a frequency of 28,800 vibrations per hour.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement RD821 calibre
Case material 18-carat pink gold

Jaquet Droz
GRANDE SECONDE QUANTIEME IVORY

Tired of timepieces pockmarked with stones? This piece has a clean ivory enamel dial, the outcome of the historic Grand Feu processing technique, which ensures you don't lose yourself in the clutter. Simply elegant.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement 266002.P calibre
Case material White gold

Dior
GRAND SOIR N°27 ORIGAMI

A bezel set with baguette helix-cut diamonds, horns with baguette-cut diamonds and a mother-of-pearl marquetry dial studded with triangular spinels, all brought together to resemble an exquisite piece of Japanese craftsmanship. What's more, it's a piece unique.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement Zenith Elite calibre
Case material Yellow gold

Hermès
ARCEAU MILLEFIORI

Fancy a piece of the starry sky for yourself? Combining watchmaking and crystal designs, the cheerful dial of the Arceau Millefiori is made of 'slices' of tiny baton-cut crystals. Beauty unleashed.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK
Movement H1837 calibre
Case material White gold (set with diamonds)

INDIA A MARKET TO WATCH

What's a timepiece if it doesn't keep up with the times? **Sarosh Mody** discusses the future of watchmaking with the biggest names in the field

Advertisements on iPhones and iPads anno people, and I dc think annoying people is a very good idea.

HARRY WINSTON

'We want to be exclusive, but everywhere too'

Nayla Hayek, chairperson of Swatch Group and CEO of Harry Winston, discusses the stunning Opus and increasing the company's presence in India.

» On Opus' absence at Baselworld

Those disappointed by the absence of the well-known Opus series at Baselworld will continue to be so till the end of this year, or the beginning of the next. The problem is, the concept behind Opus is to have a very special watch. For that, we have to work with some more-or-less crazy watchmakers, independent ones, making it very special. But it was good that we gave more prominence to (the rest of) Harry Winston. For the moment, the idea is to have an exclusive event for Opus.

A. LANGE & SÖHNE

'It would be very arrogant to not take India seriously'

Wilhelm Schmid, CEO of A. Lange & Söhne, on the latest developments in watchmaking, and the need to balance traditional values with modern technology.

» Strong Focus on India

I believe it would be very arrogant of anybody in the world to not take a country like India, with well over one billion people, seriously. India has some very very wealthy people, and also those who know a lot about watches. At present, we are looking for somebody familiar with the local market, the right candidate, to handle affairs in India.

» Absence of Grand Complication

Why don't we have a grand complication this time, you ask? Well, it just wouldn't be right if we bring out the most complicated watch a country has ever built every year. But I would not say that this year's novelty range is full of medium innovations either. The Richard Lange Perpetual Terraluna, for instance, has constant force, two weeks of power reserve, a moon orbital indicator that's accurate by 1,058 years, and possesses 787 different parts and 80 rubies. That's not medium — that's top-of-the-range.

> "I believe in traditional values, but that does not mean that we should repeat what has been done before."

» Changing with the Times

Now, how we can deal with the changing times is a philosophical question that I may not be able to answer most satisfactorily. Though I believe in traditional values, it does not mean that we should repeat what has been done before. There are a few instances when we really pushed boundaries and re-established rules. For example, check that little moon-phase disc that we just introduced for the Lange 1 and the Terraluna. That required a lot of technology, not only in the watch but also in producing it.

» Relation with Richemont

A. Lange & Söhne is a member of the Richemont Group, and for a small brand like ours, it is a huge asset. If we have to open an office in Hong Kong or employ somebody in the US, it would be very expensive and slow if we had to deal with it by ourselves. Richemont's massive infrastructure helps us on that very count. They, however, do not involve themselves in product development, marketing strategies, or the manner in which we invest. Here, everything is autonomous. We do join forces, but we also keep our secrets very close to the chest.

» Showcasing the Product

According to me, boutiques are the most important medium to showcase the brand. When you see the pieces laid out there, you get a sense of what the brand. It's also important to promote your image through investments. Harry Winston is making quite a few investments, including some in philanthropy. I think people get annoyed when they are bombarded with ads on their iPhones and annoying customers is not a very good idea.

» The Secret to not becoming 'Common'

The most important thing is to to be true to your DNA. Harry Winston may try to be in more places across the world, try to inform more people about the brand, but will still remain very exclusive. You have to grow within the brand first, create more special pieces, satisfy your old clients, not go in other directions, and try to achieve new clients by talking to them. Through all this, you should still remain exclusive and not spread out.

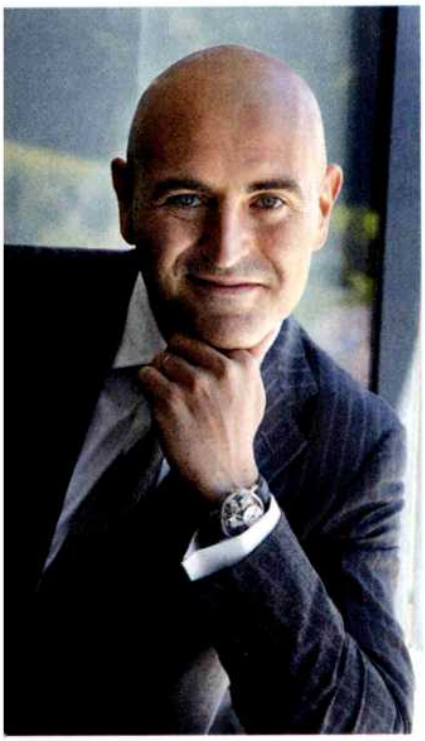
» Emerging Markets

Markets of UK, US and Japan are the most informed about Harry Winston as a brand. But we can't become complacent, and have to work towards explaining the brand and its history in other parts of the world. As for India, I love the country with all its positives and negatives. It's very difficult to develop a high-end brand in India because of the prevalent laws. Another headache is the Indian rupee to the Swiss Franc conversion rate. We have a really wonderful team working here, but we lose money every day because of currency exchange. Nevertheless, we are really pushing to get our first Swatch flagship store in India.

BREGUET

'We do not copy history, we enhance it'

Marc A Hayek, CEO of Breguet, Blancpain and Jaquet Droz, speaks on the business of manufacturing time, and marrying the contemporary with the classical.



> Upgrading an existing movement may seem like a minor project in theory, but believe us, it's no ordinary facelift.

» Striking a Balance

To create a watch, one should understand the spirit behind its history. Our DNA is not about repeating what has already been done, but trying to respect the spirit of what JD would want to do today. We adhere to traditional values at Breguet, where you will always see tank-shaped dials and classic pieces with Breguet hands, but the development involves a lot of innovation and a desire to avoid senseless repetition.

» So Far So Good

A long term strategy always works, and our figures show just that. All the three brands (Breguet, Blancpain and Jaquet Droz) have, thankfully, shown strong growth and progress under my direction. And as it's been a record year for each of them, I can't complain.

» The Blancpain Episode

The new Blancpain Perpetual Calendar was a challenge because it was something very emblematic for the brand, and also successful in sales. We had to bring it to the new generation while continuing to maintain the classic look and feel. What got on our technical team's nerves was the fact that after the work was finished, they had to re-do a large part of the technical work because the movement has to be adjusted — and the propulsion matched — to the size of the case. It took a lot of work to make it seem like only a little was done. Well, the effort paid off, and the first result was very successful in sales.

» The Breguet Perpetual Calendar

We already had this existing movement, sure, but we had to upgrade it to the modern day. That may not seem like a big project in theory because we are just building on what already exists — you could even call it a facelift — but in the end, the watch is 80 per cent new! One change leads to another, which — in turn — leads to the next, and we end up rebuilding the entire complication.

» JD's Automata Connection

At Jaquet Droz, we definitely aren't planning to sell just automatas. While the first automatas seemed like mechanical magic, they wouldn't evoke the same degree of wonder in the beholder today.

> Bulgari attracts people with confidence, character and a very strong sense of artistic difference.

BVLGARI

'Time needs to be glorified with jewels'

Jean-Christophe Babin, CEO of Bulgari, on creating history for the wrist, and fusing Roman designs with local sensibilities to bring out the very best.

» The Rome Connection

For us, everything starts from the jeweller. As Italian jewellers, we have created a style, a name and a dream totally different from any other jeweller, which is the strength of Bulgari. And this comes from Rome, which is unique. My vision for Bulgari jewellery is the fusion between the best of Swiss watchmaking technology with unique Roman artistic patrimony. It's magnificent architecture, it's bold, it's Roman. And it obviously attracts people with self-confidence, a strong character and a very strong sense of artistic difference.

» Advancements in Watchmaking

Sometimes, simplicity is the biggest complication. L'Ammiraglio Del Tempo will probably be one of the best pieces of Basel 2014 because it's the first time that a company has brought together a completely new escapement, and the challenge has been to miniaturise it. With the cylindrical spring, which is very different from the traditional springs, combined with the Westminster minute repeater, it is sure to stay in watchmaking history for ever.

» On the new Lucea

Lucea is Latin for light, and light is of course the utmost expression of jewellery. Inspired by the iconic snake of the forties, Lucea has a commanding presence, whether in steel or gold. The design is inspired by one of the most famous monuments in Rome — the second century BC Basilica de Majencio. It also has a sportier version — the Octo Maserati, made in collaboration with the Maserati sports car and limited to just 1,914 pieces.

» Marketplace India

India is, of course, a must-be place. It's currently not a huge business, but the market will open further. When it comes to localisation, we are interested in jewellery popular in a particular place — such as the jadestones in China. Similarly, we are trying to identify jewellery with an India connect for Bulgari.

OMEGA

'We aren't in the same biz as smartwatches'

Stephen Urquhart, president of Omega, speaks on what keeps traditional watchmaking ticking in this age of computers and coffee machines.

» Back to the Basics

Back in 1957, Omega had a fantastic collection, complete with the Speedmaster and the 300. We had a difficult time, like most brands, in the 70s and 80s, but Speedmaster got through the period quite unscathed. The new Constellation (the old one was a very classical one) was launched in 1982. Today, we have brought back the original symmetrical design for quite a few iconic models, even the Speedmaster. The new 300 is the near-exact replica of the '57 model — a little bigger, maybe, and the qualitative aspects have been improved upon.

» Time and Technology

In my short life, I have learnt never to say never. We tried incorporating new technology earlier, and consequently, Omega was one of the first watches to come out with the auto-Quartz movement. Nobody here is saying that the mechanical watch cannot be done differently, but if you look at the mechanical watch that is desired and cherished by the vast majority of the people in the world today, any change in the movement should be within — where you cannot see it. The balance spring was a big step forward, and the same goes for the master co-axial movement. It's not something you can see, but it does have an effect, and our customers across the world notice that. Take, for instance, our progress in countering magnetic fields, which are in everything we use. I think it is quite a big breakthrough.

» The Smartwatch Factor

Everybody's asked me about smartwatches. Well, what do you want me to say? I use a smartphone, so maybe we could buy a smartwatch for fun. Well, the other day my son bought this smartwatch for $250, which has GPS-enabled applications and 3,000 golf courses on it. Well, if you can see, it's not the same business as this... we had this back in the 70's and 80's too — this technology was there (okay, it's more sophisticated now for sure). But it did not replace the mechanical watch then, and I don't think it will now. If it does, well, I guess we can all go back and find something else to do.

> The mechanical watch can be done differently, but any change should be from within, where you can't see it.

Reel, Reads RHYTHM

Presenting the very best in entertainment this November.

books

PLAYING IT MY WAY

No person has ever come as close to achieving divinity as Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar. But, as much as we admire the man behind all those cricketing records, how well do we really know him? Well, fret not, because here's your chance to read about your star – in his own words.

Author
Sachin Tendulkar
Publisher
Hachette India
Release Date
November 6

REVIVAL

One is a desperate guitar player, the other a former preacher. Together, they enter a devilish pact with the gods of electricity, a decision soon learnt to regret. From the man behind Misery and Salem's Lot.

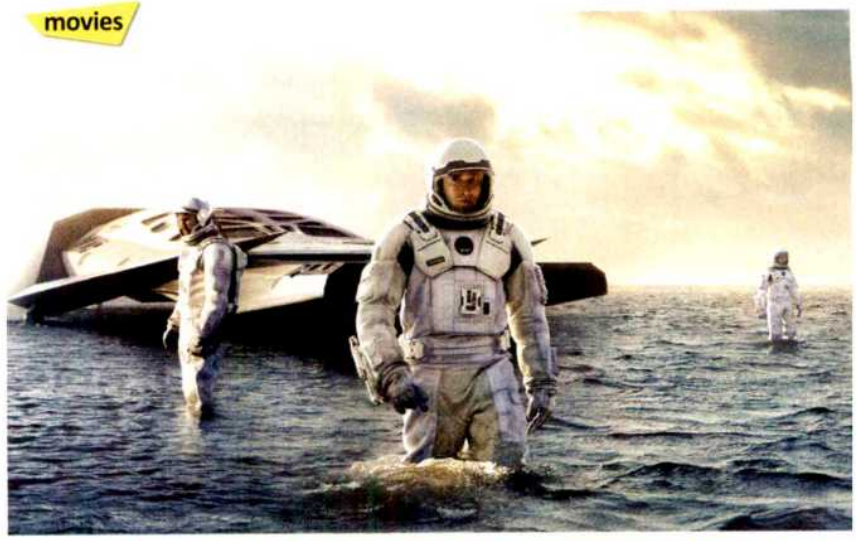
Author
Stephen King
Publisher
H&S Publishers
Release Date
November 11

CAPTIVATED BY YOU

Exchanged vows should bind tighter than blood and flesh. So, what do you do when they open old wounds instead, exposing you to pain and insecurity? Sylvia Day is back with a book that's as dark as it is erotic.

Author
Sylvia Day
Publisher
Berkley Trade
Release Date
November 18

movies



A still from 'Interstellar', starring Matthew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway ▲

INTERSTELLAR

The Earth is just a shadow of the planet it once was, and its inhabitants don't expect it to last the century. However, in this bleak scenario opens a wormhole of hope (quite literally), inspiring explorers and scientists to embark on a voyage transcending the limits of conventional space travel to find mankind a habitable homeland in another galaxy. Among them is engineer Cooper (Matthew McConaughey), who is distraught at the idea of leaving his two children behind to participate in the near-suicidal mission. Also starring Anne Hathaway.

Director Christopher Nolan **Release Date** November 7

ROSEWATER

Shortly after reporter Maziar Bahari (Gael Garcia Bernal) is interviewed by a *Daily Show* correspondent in Iran, he is imprisoned for spying. The next three months are spent in a notorious prison, enduring brutal interrogation sessions at the hands of a man identified only by the smell of rosewater. Based on a true story.

Director Jon Stewart

Release Date November 14

HG: MOCKINGJAY PART I

Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence has survived the Hunger Games twice, but the arena is not the only threat she faces. The Capitol thirsts for revenge, something that becomes evident when President Snow warns that nobody is safe — not Katniss, nor her family or friends, and certainly not the hapless folk of District 12.

Director Francis Lawrence

Release Date November 21

music

THE ESSENTIAL RICHIE KOTZEN

Richie Kotzen needs no introduction, especially for somebody who has kept track of glam metal through the fab 80's. Even if you have heard the best of the music he made through 18 solo albums since 2002, look out for the all-new 'War Paint' and 'Walk with Me' – both of which find pride of place at the very start of CD 1. While the first is the rendition of a man's desire to "bury his feelings", 'Walk with Me' turns out to be quite an emotive anthem delivered to the notes of the theremin. Released as a 2 CD-1 DVD set, the collection contains everything from acoustic performances, bootleg material, music videos and tracks like 'Love is Blind', 'Until You Suffer Some', 'The Road' and the all-time favourite 'You Can't Save Me'. Believe us, this one's definitely essential.

Label **Loud and Proud Records**
Price **₹1,050 (approx)**

THE SHAUKEENS
Release Date
November 7
Cast
Akshay Kumar, Lisa Haydon

HAPPY ENDING
Release Date
November 21
Cast
Saif Ali Khan, Ileana D'Cruz

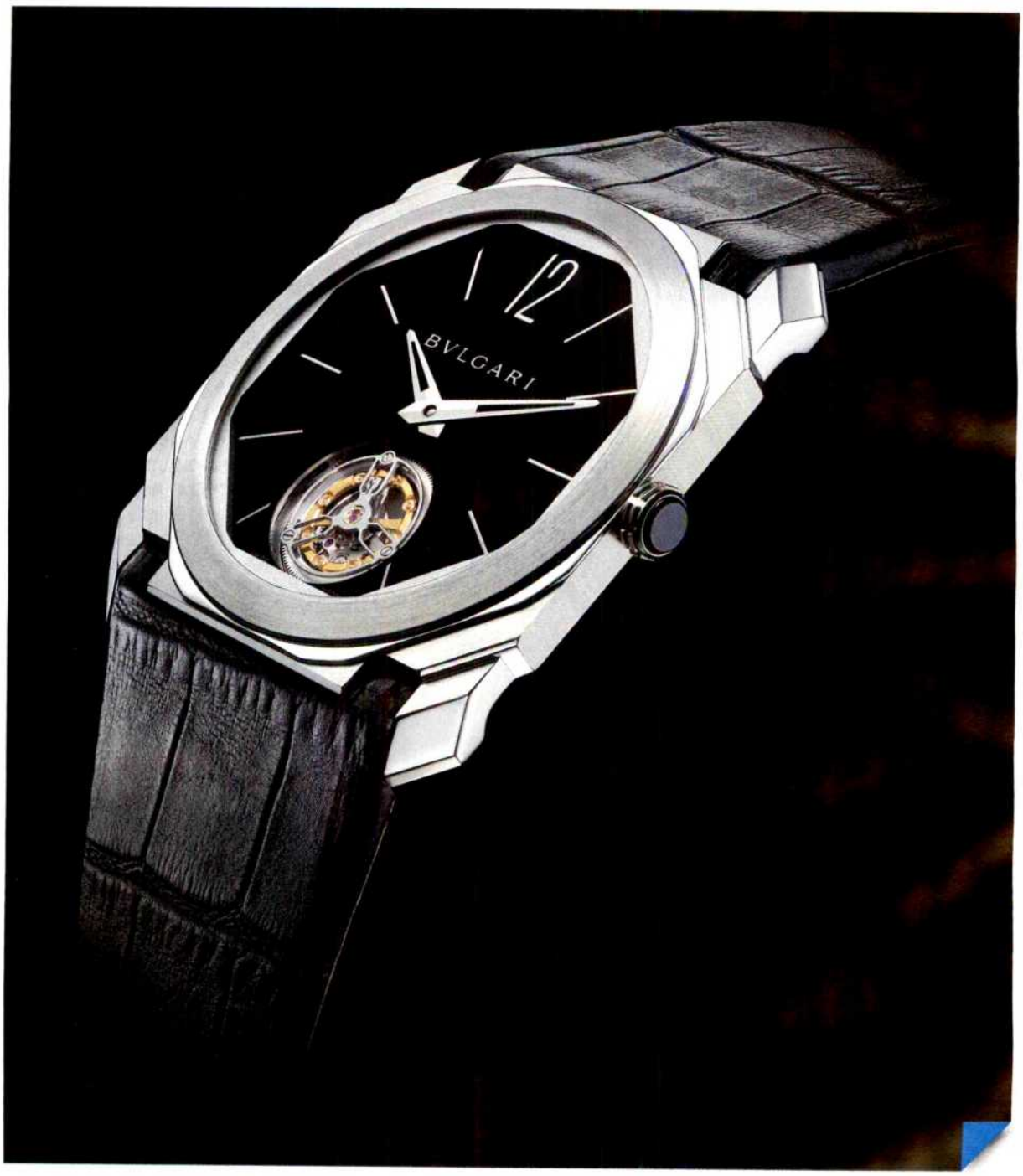
UNGLI
Release Date
November 28
Cast
Emraan Hashmi, Kangana Ranaut

BOLLYWOOD

Director
Shaad Ali
Release Date
November 14

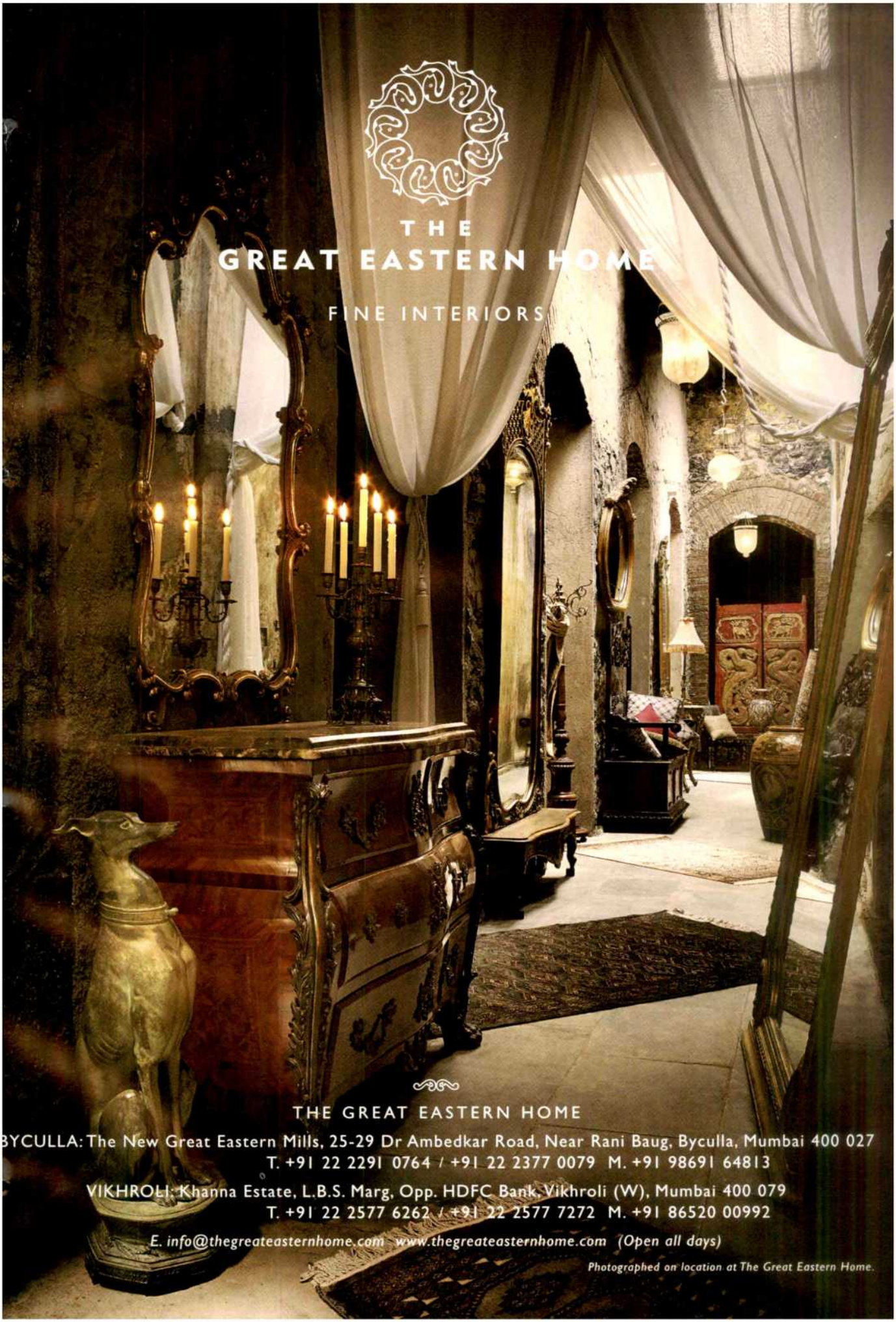
KILL/DIL

Kill Dil, an obvious pun on the Uma Thurman-starrer from 2003, has been a topic of much discussion — whether it's for the *Sweeta* video featuring a smooch between Ranveer Singh and Parineeti Chopra, or the fact that Govinda has finally graduated to playing the baddie. The plot? Well, it has two free-spirited gangsters, Dev (Ranveer Singh) and Tutu (Ali Zafar), making the most of their criminal lives until along comes dainty Disha and makes a mess of everything.



SLIM SEDUCTION

IF YOU THOUGHT SLIMMING DOWN WAS HARD, GET A LOAD OF THIS. BULGARI'S OCTO FINISSIMO Tourbillon belies the engineering magic that ticks softly within its platinum case. Touching a new milestone in watchmaking, the 1.95-mm movement makes this flying tourbillon the thinnest ever. In the Octo Finissimo, ingenuity lies sleekly encased in three ball bearings, which free up space for a double hairspring. Despite packing in 249 components, its width could rival that of a five-Swiss franc coin. The stunning octagonal facet and bevelled and satin-brushed gears make for a splendid silhouette. Held in place by a black alligator strap, this watch is just what you will need to become the talk of the town. Floor them all.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Breguet
Depuis 1775

Breguet, the innovator.

Classique Hora Mundi - 5717

An invitation to travel across the continents and oceans illustrated on three versions of the hand-guilloché lacquered dial, the Classique Hora Mundi is the first mechanical watch with an instant-jump time-zone display. Thanks to a patented mechanical memory based on two heart-shaped cams, it instantly indicates the date and the time of day or night in a given city selected using the dedicated pushpiece. History is still being written...

Chennai: The Helvetica, tel: 044 28464096/97 **Kolkata:** Exclusive Lines, tel: 033 22820626
Hyderabad: Meena Jewellers, tel: 040 23237170 **Mumbai:** Ethos Summit, tel: 022 66151308/09 ; Time Avenue, tel: 022 26515757
New Delhi: Johnson Watch Co, Connaught Place, tel: 011 41513110/41513121 – Johnson Watch Co, South Extn, tel: 011 24642299/4164
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OMEGA

MASTER [illegible]

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12 GENERATION WINE
India's new crop of winemakers is riding high

F O L L O W Y O U R O W N S T A R

EL PRIMERO CHRONOMASTER 1969

Acknowledged as the world's best chronograph, it is a descendant of the legendary El Primero first unveiled in 1969 and proudly bears the iconic colours of the first high-frequency automatic column-wheel chronograph calibre. **Beating** at a rate of 36,000 vibrations per hour, this daring feat embodies the exceptional expertise of the Manufacture.

ZENITH

SWISS WATCH MANUFACTURE

SINCE 1865

Delhi: Kapoor Watch Co, G.K.-1, 011-46536667/68; Kapoor Watch Co, Ambience Mall: 0124-4665500

Mumbai: Rose The Watch Bar: 022-23620275/77

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In his free hours, Andrew Stevens reads or goes boating with friends.

'MY JOB TEACHES ME TO QUESTION EVERYTHING'

Andrew Stevens, Asia-Pacific editor of CNN, tells us what it takes to be the finest in the business.

TEXT BY JIMMY JACOB
PHOTOGRAPH BY SHEKHAR GHOSH

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WATCH WHAT'S ON THE news, and then there are those who live it. Andrew Stevens, Asia-Pacific editor of CNN, belongs to the second category. Stevens has reported some of the most sensational incidents across the globe, from the Typhoon Haiyan tragedy in 2013 to the mysterious disappearance of the Malaysian Airlines MH370 earlier this year. *BT More* catches up with Stevens for a fleeting glimpse into his life and the values that define him.

BIG STORIES

The most dramatic among the incidents I covered was the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. One of the most powerful storms ever recorded, it spoke volumes on human tragedy, the impact on the community, and the fact that high-intensity natural phenomena like these were becoming increasingly common because of climate change and related factors. The other big stories I recall are the ones on the MH370 mishap, the ferry sinking incident in South Korea, and the recent pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.

BRUSH WITH THE REAPER

Six years ago, we got delayed doing live shots at the Mahindra factory in the outskirts of Mumbai, and started off for our hotel a little late. However, as my colleagues neared it, they heard shots. The hotel was the Taj Palace, and the night was that of the Mumbai terror attacks. It was just dumb luck. If we hadn't been delayed at Mahindra, we would have been sitting around the hotel swimming pool, discussing the next day's shoot. As it happens, the terrorists had entered the hotel by climbing a fence and crossing the swimming pool, shooting everybody around it. We could have been among them.

BECOMING A PART OF THE STORY

During the course of the Philippines tragedy, we were staying in the same hotel as a family rescued from the storm. They were on the ground floor while we were on the third and, quite unexpectedly, water surged into the bottom floor and trapped the family. They were screaming for help and, back then, I think it was a pretty clear choice to make. We intervened. I think that in instances like these, you should act the way your conscience tells you to; you can't stand by and do nothing. But you should also draw a line somewhere; you shouldn't become the centre of the story. It is not about you, and it shouldn't be about you either.

> A journalist should not become the centre of a story. The story is not about him, and it shouldn't be either.

MY PASSIONS

The reason I came to Hong Kong in 1993 was because I wanted to cover its handover to China. Today, over 20 years have passed and I still stay there with my family. In my free hours, I swim a lot. That's the great thing about living in Hong Kong; it's got some beautiful beaches. I am also very fond of motorbikes, so much so that I am considering buying a Royal Enfield from India and shipping it back to Hong Kong. I read a lot, and at times go boating with friends. I listen to a broad spectrum of music, from Black Sabbath to Imagine Dragons.

FASCINATED BY INDIA

In 2011, I spent nearly two months riding an Enfield Bullet in India, going around Rajasthan and passing through Kolkata to reach Bhutan. I think the Enfield is a beautiful bike, and it has a great sound too. Years ago, I had gone to Kerala. I have been in Mumbai a lot, and a couple of times to Gujarat on work. I have seen a reasonable amount of India, but it's a big country and there's a lot more to see.

FROM A JOURNALIST'S POV

Journalism teaches you to question everything. It teaches you to look into people, into situations. It makes you critical, but even then, it teaches you how to get on with people and extract information. However, while there's a lot of emphasis on getting things before the others, it's better to be second with news that's right than first with news that's not. In the end, all that matters is credibility.

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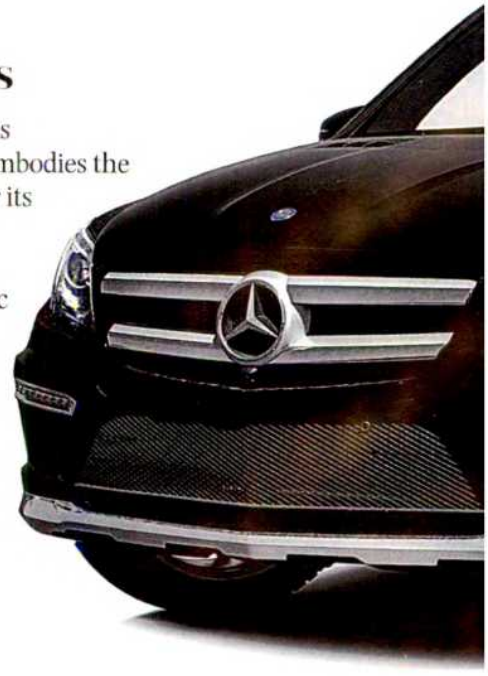

GADGET CORNER

That's Porsche

If you thought QWERTY was dead, think again. The **Blackberry Porsche Design** smartphone integrates premium quality materials such as sapphire glass for the camera lens, forged steel for the Porsche Design floating logo and chassis, and a case made with special glass-weave technology for the back cover. A phone for life in the fast lane.

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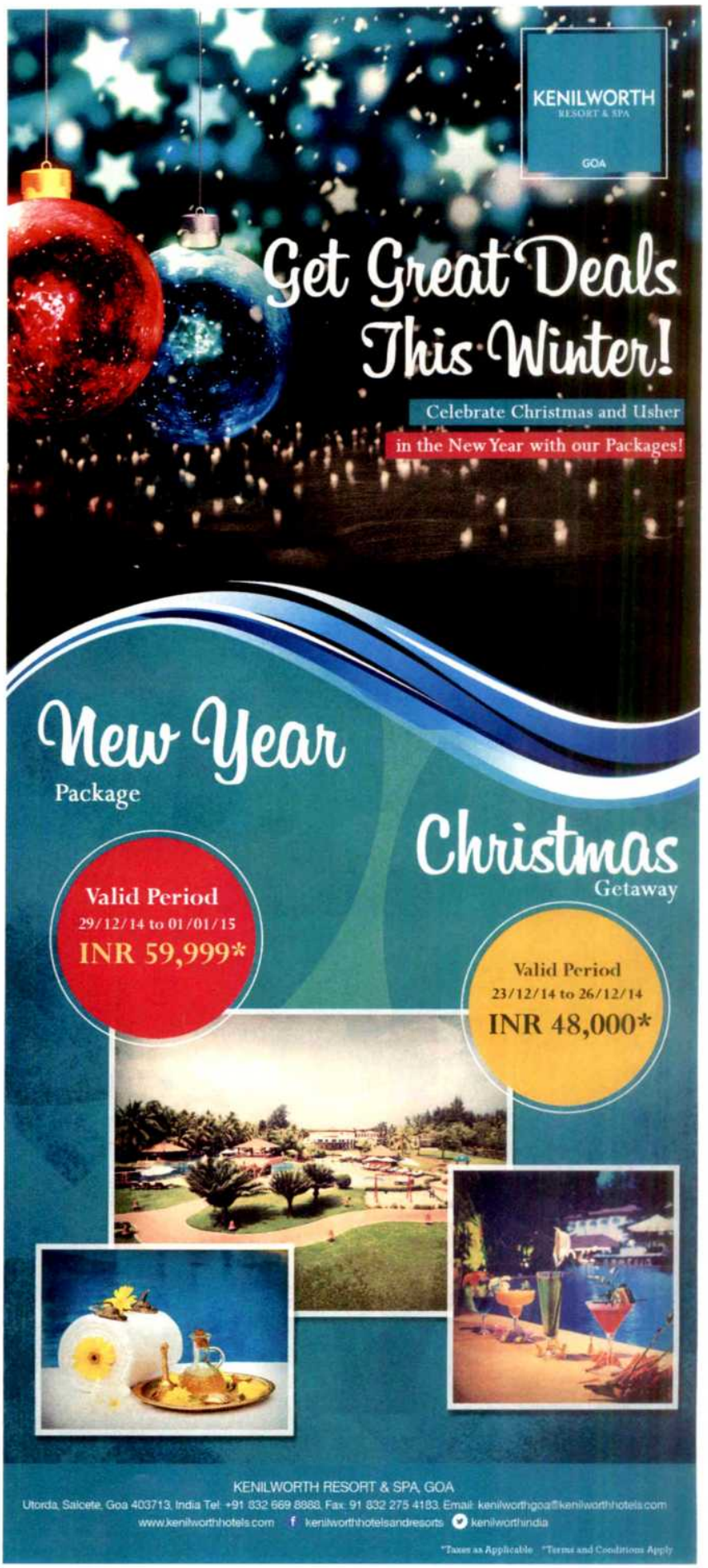


ONE FOR THE COLD

Sometimes, it's best to go with the flow. Ward off the chill with the top liquor trends this season.

TEXT BY JIMMY JACOB

It's the coldest time of the year, and the moments you most look forward to are the ones spent sprawled in front of a fireplace, caressing a glass of iced whisky. Or, if you are the partying kind, dunking in a little liquid courage to ask that pretty lady onto the dance floor and eventually wrap up the wintry night with enough warmth to keep you going till March.

Ask any drinker, and he will tell you that good liquor is best savoured when there's a chill in the air. Alcohol has always played bedfellow to the cold, whether it involved top-hatted American gentlemen discussing politics over jugs of moonshine in 18th century speakeasies or furry St Bernards gambolling around with brandy barrels in medieval Switzerland to rescue pilgrims stranded in the snow. But before you raise that toast to the winter, here are some liquor trends you should look at. After all, there's more to drinking than, well, just drinking.

A Whisky for the Lady, Please

At a party, don't let your jaw tumble to the dance floor if your woman friend asks for a whisky on the rocks. Chances are, you will come across as somebody out of tune with the times, or worse still, a male chauvinist. Gone are the days when women opted for gin and tonic; today, they love the golden stuff as much as the next man. The clearest indication of such a development is the record number of women joining the Scotch Malt Whisky Society, an international organisation dedicated to promoting the liquor. The Indian woman is no exception to the rule, either. Says Pushpanjalee Banerji, Kyndal India brand manager and the most visible woman in the Indian liquor industry today, "Whisky had a very masculine image for a long time, but times change. Women want to experience new things that have hitherto been considered 'male'. Today, both men and women raise their whisky glasses at social gatherings. I have witnessed this transition firsthand."

Go beyond Scotch

While we are on whisky, why don't we take a break from Scottish offerings (good as they are) to treat our higher senses to a little experimentation? Try some Irish whisky, for instance, the sales of which grew by as much as 10.1 per cent across the globe in 2013 despite a relative slowdown in alcohol consumption. And going by its newfound popularity, an increasing number of bars across the world have begun stocking Jameson Reserves alongside their Dalmores and Glenfiddichs. Experts attribute the Irish whisky's popularity among new-gen drinkers to its smoother, sweeter flavour, brought about by a three-pronged distillation process. Care for something closer home? Try Japanese whiskies, especially the Yamazaki Single Malt Sherry Cask 2013, which bagged the top honours in the latest edition of Jim Murray's Whisky Bible.

Vitamin-enriched Drinks

Whoever said drinking is injurious to your health may just have to gulp down his words. Studies show that an increasing number of people are taking to alcoholic beverages spiked with vitamins and all-natural ingredients such as goji berries and ginseng. Beer, for its part, has now come to be known as one of the healthier options on the drinks menu; a 12-ounce serving of craft beer is said to provide around 8 per cent of the recommended daily intake of vitamin B6 and niacin, 5 per cent of riboflavin and folate, and trace amounts of other important nutrients. What's more, the newer crop of experts do not hold much stock in the 'beer belly' myth either. "Overconsumption of any liquor causes obesity. Believe it, an average pint of beer has fewer calories than a rum and coke," says Rohan Jelkie, wine and spirits professional with Tulleeho.

Low-calorie Cocktails

It makes little sense to survive on salads and salted lemonade all week long, and then throw it all away on a greasy Mudslide on a carefree Saturday evening. Taking this logic forward, many now opt for low-calorie cocktails that ensure a great high with loads of flavour but a smaller possibility of love handles. So, to keep up with these weight-conscious times, make sure you don't stray anywhere near the Chocotini and the Long Island Iced Tea. After all, why go for sinful drinks when healthier options like the Apple Martini and Bloody Mary notch up a calorie count that barely crosses triple digits?

Enter Soju and Sake

As much as you may like your beer or whisky, this is the season to experiment. With the entry of Japanese sake brewers Masumi in February and the recent bottling deal by Korean soju giant Jinro with Advent Brand House, there is a sudden spurt of interest in East Asian liquor. However, don't glug this stuff straight from the bottle; soju and sake are meant to be had as part of a social gathering, and with utmost respect for the spirit as well as those around you.

Scaling a New High

Rise of the Indian whisky Seven among the top 10 fastest growing whiskies in the world, led by Radico Khaitan's Crown at 75 per cent, are Indian. Officer's Choice, with 23.8 million cases, sold the most in 2013.

Old is gold Traditional drinkers still outweigh the adventurous. While 36 per cent stick to the same ol' scotch-n-soda, just 32 per cent want to know what that new drink is all about. The rest say they can swing either way.

Down with the fake Non-alcoholic beers and wines are on their way out. If they don't feel like getting a high, customers would rather have a big mug of natural fruit juice. It's healthier too.

Vodka still the cocktail favourite The cocktail may have found its origin in bathtub gin, but it has mostly been hanging in vodka territory ever since. What's more, it's still going strong.

THE GRAPE ESCAPE

Even with wine, the old must give way to the new. Presenting the next generation in the wine industry.

TEXT BY ADITI PAI

With a large number of international guests, expats and well-travelled South Mumbaikars calling it their second home, you'd expect The Table, a fine dining restaurant in south Mumbai, to have the best selection from wine cellars across the world. So, when the wine menu has a quarter of its collection dedicated to Indian labels, it's an affirmation that home grown wines are catching up in quality and popularity with imported labels. "Indian wines are growing in their quality, are very drinkable, good value for money and rank with the new world wines. Even international tourists prefer to try Indian wines," says Gauri Devidayal, founder, The Table.

The consumption of wines has registered a steady growth over the last few years. The Indian wine industry, still considered a sunrise business, is experimenting with new grape varietals, wine-making styles and offbeat offerings to the consumer. The trend is fuelling a demand for wines in urban India. A 2014 Vinexpo survey predicted that wine consumption in India will rise to 2.1 million cases by 2017, an increase of 73 per cent from the 1.21 million cases in 2013. Interestingly, red wines constitute 61 per cent of the total demand for wines.

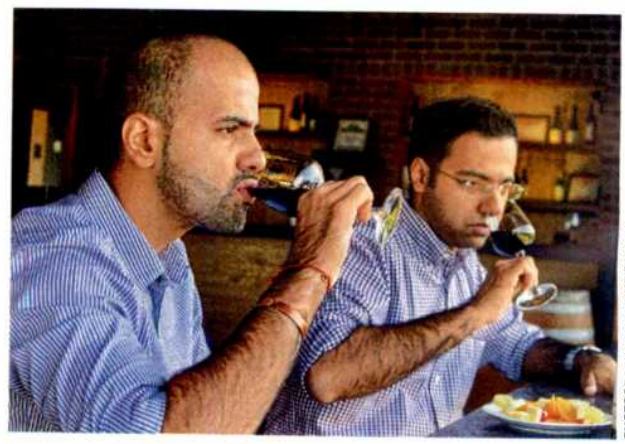
"Consequently, a new set of winemakers, who have been successful in other ventures, are getting into the 'boutique wine' business with sheer passion and commitment," says Abhay Kewadkar, Director, Four Seasons wines. From introducing Sicilian grape varieties like the Nero D'Avola to bringing in the French Malbec, there is a lot that the India-produced wine menu has on offer for connoisseurs of spirits. A look at the newest faces to grace the Indian wine industry.

York

When Ravi Gurnani launches his new Reserve Blend of Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon later this year, each bottle will be numbered to convey that it's one among the 4,700 bottles of the blend to hit the market. "The wine biz is all about selling experiences. In a market where people have a lot of options, you have to do something different to attract them," says the 30-year-old owner of York, who runs the family winery with his winemaker brother Kailash, 26. Since its launch in 2008, York has been coming up with something new each time to stand out in a crowd.

The grapes for their Shiraz come from the family's six-acre vineyards in Nashik, which Gurnani says "serve as model vineyards" for the farmers from whom they source other grape varieties. When Kailash returned from Australia in 2012 with a degree in oenology, his first harvest produced a Cabernet Merlot blend.

Despite the number of wineries and varieties available, wine consumption and awareness in India is still in a nascent stage. Therefore, marketing becomes important.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAVIR RAGHUE

Kailash and Ravi Gurnani at York Vineyards, Nashik ▲

Through the York Live Festivals in 2011 and 2012 and the tasting room at its winery, the Gurnanis intend to create experiences that people can connect to. "In India, there is no context for wine; it's yet to become a subject of conversation. So, when people take a tour of the winery, it creates an experience for them," says Gurnani. Such memories, he hopes, will prompt people to pick York the next time they go wine-shopping.

ALL IN THE FAMILY Kailash is the winemaker, Ravi manages sales and marketing. Ravi's brother-in-law Ravi Shamdasani oversees the production.

CELLAR NOTES The Chenin Blanc is dry and fruity. The Sparkling York, a delightfully sparkling wine made of Chenin Blanc, is to look out for.

▲ The first harvest from the York vineyard produced a Cabernet Merlot blend.

Reveilo

A decade ago, when Kiran and Yatin Patil decided to quit their well-paying "9 to 5" corporate jobs to set up a winery, they didn't know that they "were jumping into an ocean". Spurred on by large ancestral vineyards that came down their way, they set up Reveilo in 2006. Today, the family run brand is credited with introducing the Chenin-Cabernet audience to Italian grape varieties such as Sangiovese, Nero D'Avola and Grillo. "It was an attempt to offer the consumer something different," says Kiran, 40. It helped that the grape varieties adapted to the Nashik terroir with ease, and the wines were found to pair well with spicy Indian food.

With the more popular Chenin Blanc, Merlot and Syrah also in their portfolio, Reveilo classifies its wines into four categories — the regular range, Italian varieties, the Premium (Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon) and the Reserve range, which also includes a late harvest Chenin Blanc. "There's a wine for everyone, from the easy-to-drink light Grillo to the barrel aged Cabernet Sauvignon," says Kiran.

Their sales data shows that most people in India still prefer lighter and less complex wines. The Syrah and Chardonnay are among the Reveilo bestsellers, and of the 8,000 cases they sell every year, the premium range accounts for only a quarter. After spreading themselves "too thin" as Kiran terms it, the couple now prefers to focus on smaller markets such as Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore.

- **A SLICE OF SICILY** The Nero D'Avola and Grillo are native to the Italian countryside. Reveilo was the first winery to bring Italian grape varieties to India.
- **WINE AND DINE** Pair the Nero D'Avola with paneer tikka masala; the Chardonnay complements a chicken kebab well.

▲ Yatin and Kiran Patil raise a toast at the Reveilo winery in Nashik.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY NILOTPAL BARUAH

Shaambhavi Hingorani at the SDU Winery, Nandi Valley, Karnataka ▲

SDU

With varied businesses in event management and real estate on track, Shaambhavi Hingorani, 40, ventured into the wine business, first as an agriculturist with vineyards, and then as a wine producer with the SDU Winery which was launched in 2011. With an initial capital investment of ₹5 crore to source equipment from Italy, she roped in Italian winemaker Andrea Valentinuzzi and reaped the first harvest in 2013. At its 50 acre vineyards, SDU grows three French grape varieties—the Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay. SDU's offerings can be classified into two categories—the Deva brand and the Reserve range. The Deva Syrah, Deva Cabernet Sauvignon and Deva Chardonnay are easy drinking wines, aimed at beginners. The Reserve range with the Reserva Syrah, Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon and Reserva Chardonnay is a premium offering that's been aged in French oak for 12 months. "The Deva range is perfect for anyone who wants to enjoy a glass of wine at a social gathering, whereas our Reserve range of wines target more serious wine drinkers," says Hingorani. For now, SDU's wines are south-bound with a presence in Karnataka, Goa and Pondicherry.

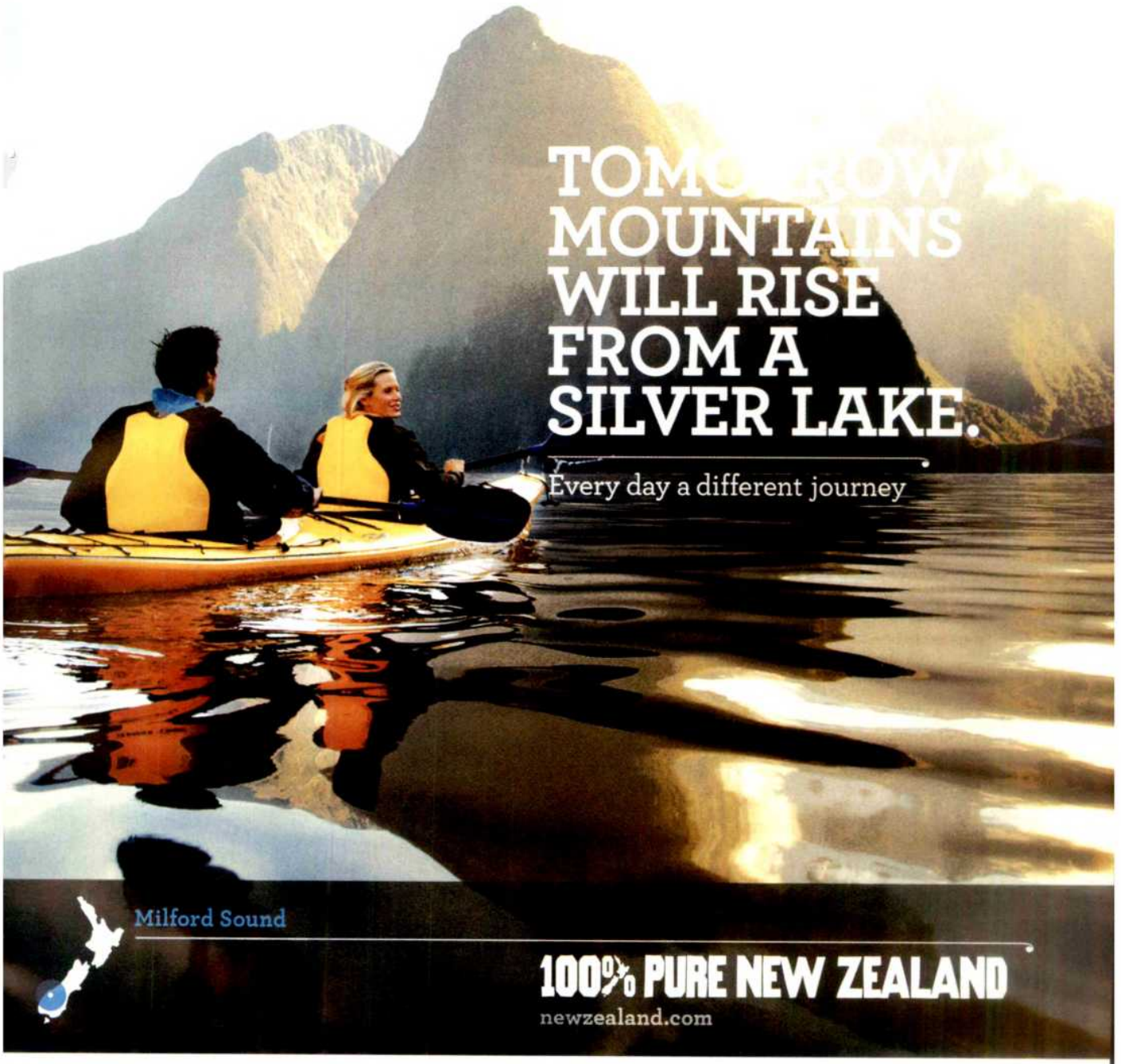
› **CELLAR NOTES** The SDU Reserva Chardonnay contains hints of citrus and tropical fruit. The Deva Syrah pairs well with white meats and Indian cuisine.

KRSMA

It was a teenage passion that prompted Krishna Prasad Chigurupati, 59, to turn vintner in 2010. The owner of pharmaceuticals company Granules India took up a vineyard in picturesque Hampi, brought in experts from the world over and set up a 100 per cent estate-bottled facility. "He brewed home wines and collected wines. We've visited every major wine-producing region in the world," says Uma Chigurupati, 52, who along with her husband, is the force behind KRSMA. At their 180-acre estate in Hampi, the couple cultivates Sangiovese, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. Business head Sneha Rao, 29, says that KRSMA is a single varietal brand that doesn't make blends. For now, KRSMA is making its produce available only in restaurants and retail stores across Bangalore. With their first batch ready for export to New York, KRSMA plans to gradually increase the numbers. Until then, they are happy to pick up the occasional award at international platforms such as the Decanter Asia Wine Awards.

› **FLAGSHIP BRANDS** The Cabernet Sauvignon accounts for 60 per cent of KRSMA sales. The Sauvignon Blanc won a gold medal at the Decanter Asia Wine Awards.

Krishna and his wife, Uma, at the KRSMA facility in Hampi, Karnataka ▲



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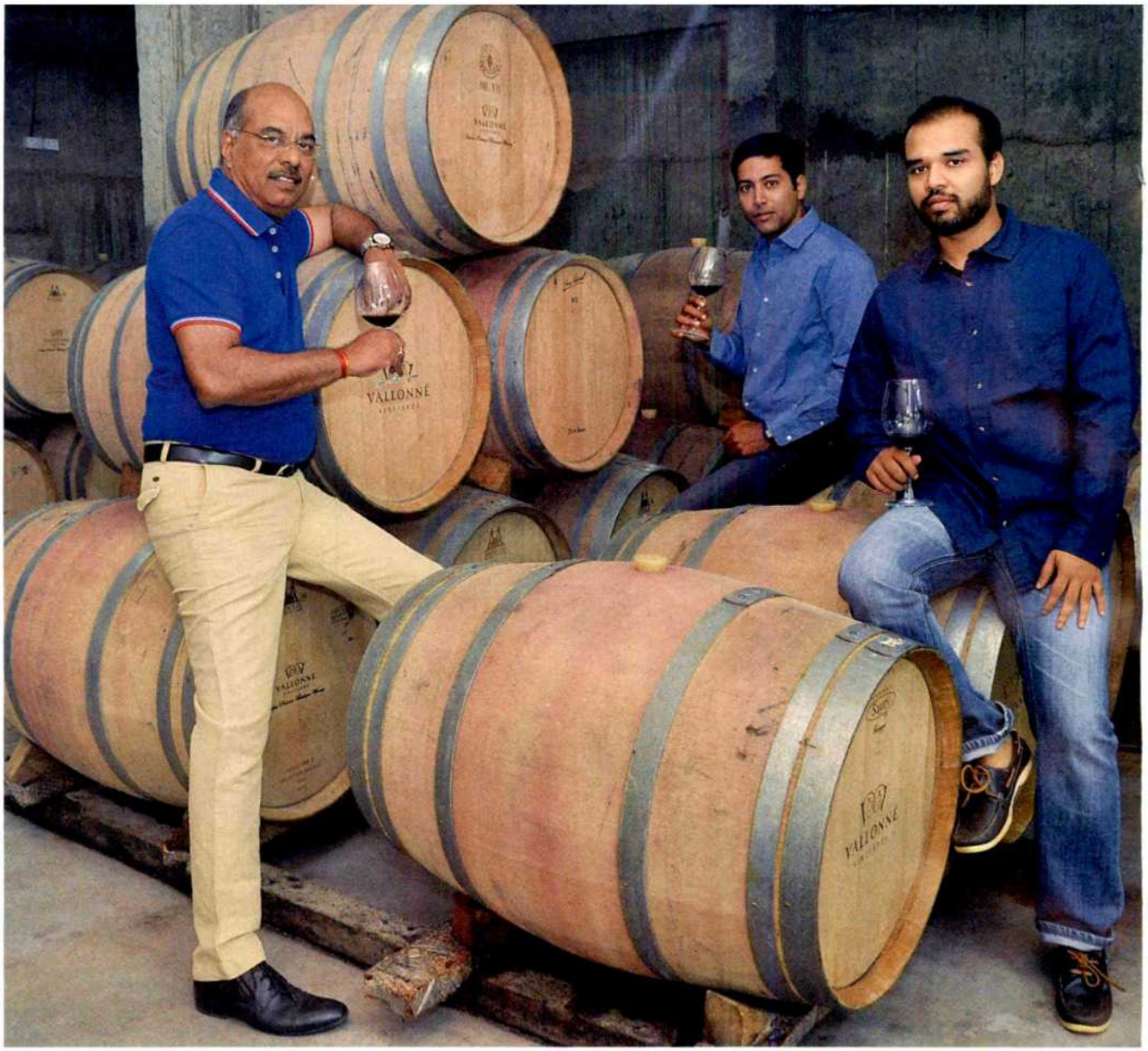


Shailendra Pai with Advait Pai (extreme right) and winemaker Sanket Gawand (centre) at Vallonné Vineyards, Nashik.

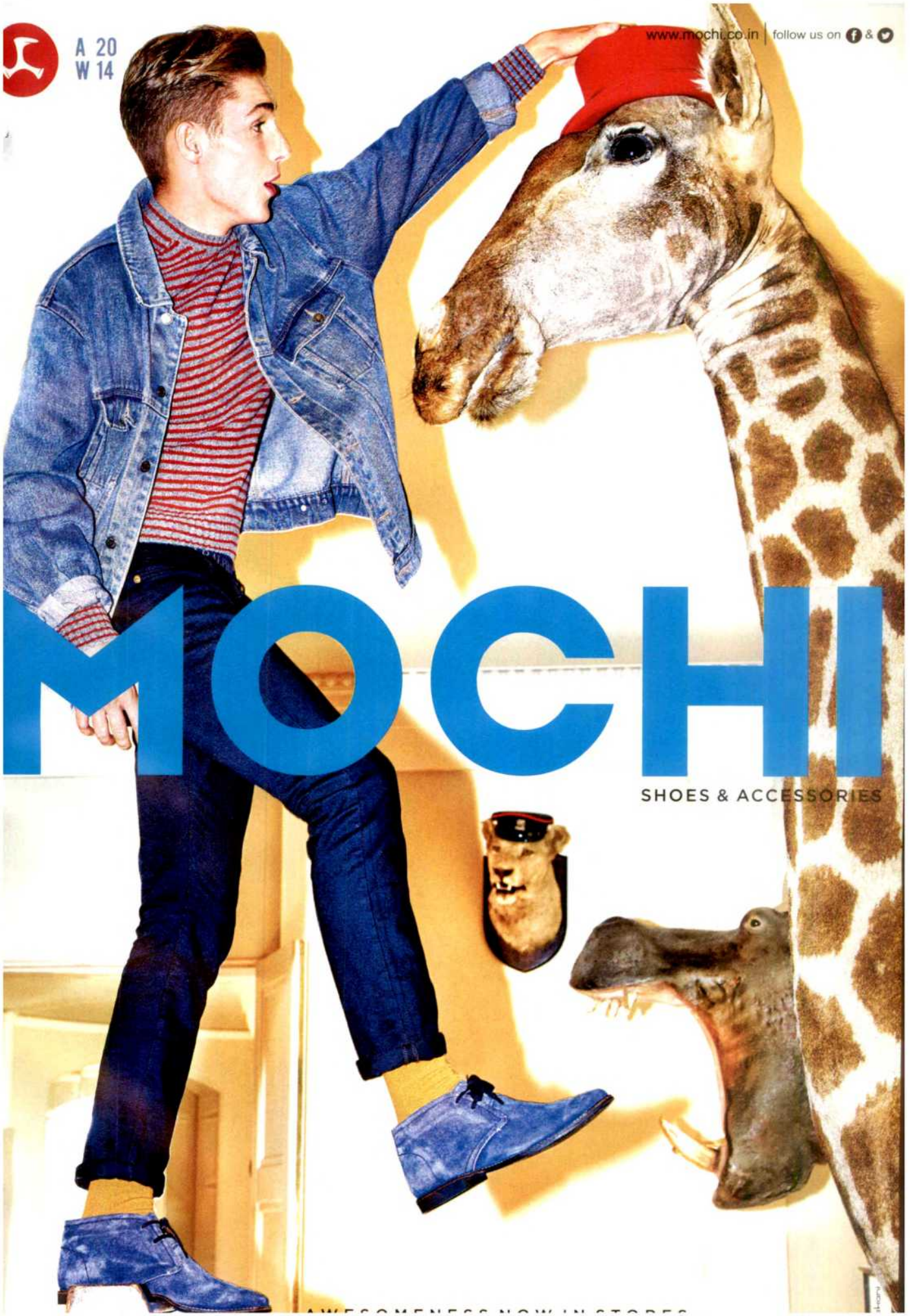
Vallonné

It was during his travels across the world that 60-year-old Shailendra Pai developed a passion for wine, giving rise to a dream that eventually blossomed into a respectable business establishment.

Today, Vallonné Vineyards seems like a patch of France on the southern slopes of Kavnai village in Nashik district, complete with equipment from Bucher Vaslin and Gai, a winemaker from Bordeaux, and grape varietals a la Francaise. According to Pai, a lot of time and expertise goes into each bottle of wine that makes it out of his stable. "We have viticulturists who tend to the vineyards through the year. The vines are planted on south-facing slopes to ensure just the right amount of sunlight exposure, and the soil is perfectly gravelly. While the wine is processed under the watchful eyes of experts, the cellars are tucked away 20 feet underground for complete protection from heat and light. Also, instead of focussing on extracting the maximum juice, we crush the fruit only up to a desired level to ensure the highest aroma and flavour." Vallonné offers a bouquet of wines ranging from the premium to super-premium. Whether it's the Merlot, barrel-aged for 12 months, or the Anokhee, barrel-aged for 15 months and then bottle-aged for another 42, each product to emerge from the Vallonné stable conveys the exoticism of India while retaining the Frenchness that's inherent to wine. As far as the "snob value" attached to imported wines is concerned, Pai says that the winds of change are blowing. "Expats form a large part of our customer base in India. In fact, some of the imported wines sold here do not match up to good Indian wines in terms of quality," he says.

MILESTONES GALORE Vallonné has already gathered many a laurel, including the country's first reserve Malbec, aged 15 months in the barrel and eight months in the bottle, and a Rosé, made from Cabernet Sauvignon.

WHAT'S NEXT A Shiraz Merlot blend that's coming out soon.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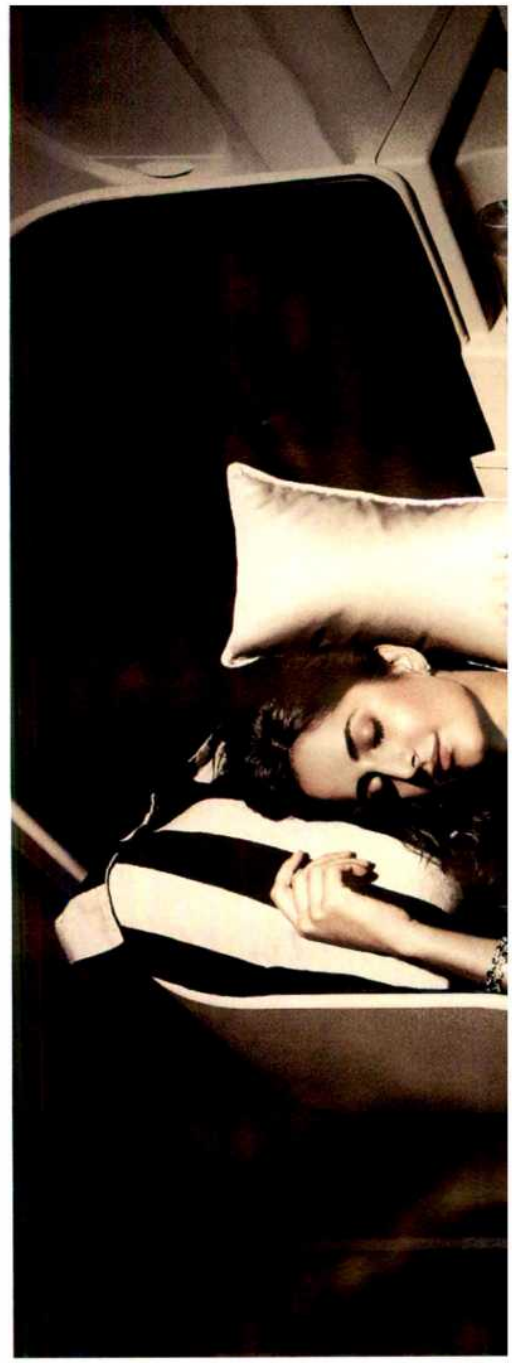
TEXT BY ANINDITA SATPATHI



Skimming the underbelly of clouds while watching the first rays penetrate an ombre sky could once put even the taciturn Howard Hughes in a chipper mood. Decades later, our flight experiences have evolved to encompass a range of human emotions, primarily irritability and boredom. Long-haul flights have become the ultimate test of human character, where attempts to keep up a semblance of polite amiability comes under severe strain. Indeed, our modern day heroes are the fliers who slumber through periods of air turbulence, suffer little or no loss of appetite, and finally hop off the flight without the slightest trace of jetlag.

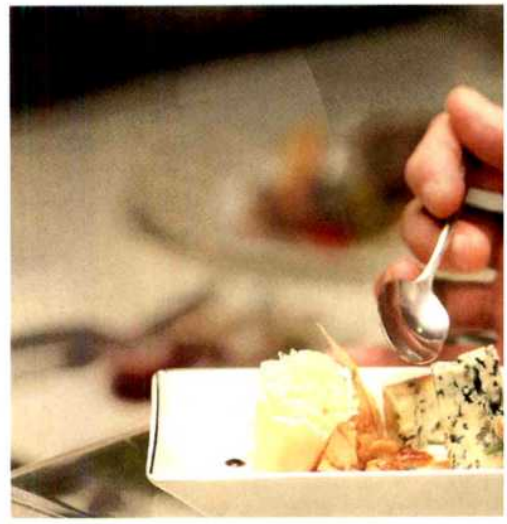
But while there are few things as torturous as being strapped to an airline seat for 16 straight hours, let's not dismiss the joys of flying just yet. With flying becoming the world's most preferred mode of travel, at least in the international arena, airliners are now pulling out all stops to ensure that customers reach their destinations in style. Don't believe us? Ride the open skies in the business class of Etihad Airways, UAE's national carrier, for an experience that will lend you wings. Quite literally.

COMFORT AND ENTERTAINMENT

From the smallest details to grand gestures, the insides of Etihad are designed to please the frazzled flier and the sanguine snoozer. There are ergonomic curves, upholstery that's just the right mix of bouncy and soft, pleasing colour tones, and a flatbed seat. The stuff of dreams.

What works An amenities kit containing everything you may need for a good night's sleep and your very own cocoon of privacy will turn you into one happy camper. The cushy corner is prepped for some serious in-flight entertainment. Sit back and enjoy the latest flicks on your personal 15-inch LCD screen while munching on Swedish crisps with a platter of cheese. The flatbed seat has massage points, and comes furnished with a warm blanket and cushion.

What doesn't The onboard temperature may pose a glitch. We sat through a little-too-warm flight that kept sleep at bay.



GEAR UP FOR GOURMET MEALS

Movies and greasy pepperoni pizza are admittedly a match made in heaven, but how about tweaking the rule a little? Curated by award-winning chefs, the gourmet meals onboard are a joy unto themselves.

What works The grilled fish fillet in lemon sauce, perched on a bed of minted peas and potato wedges, paired with your favourite red wine. The panna cotta layered with carrot and mango coulis has a refreshingly Arabian twist tempered with whipped cream. Wake up refreshed to a breakfast of baked eggs with tomato hollandaise, sautéed spinach, a croissant and turkey rashers. A dash of balsamic vinegar in olive oil makes for a lovely dipping sauce. The cinnamon brioche with baked apple is another must-try.

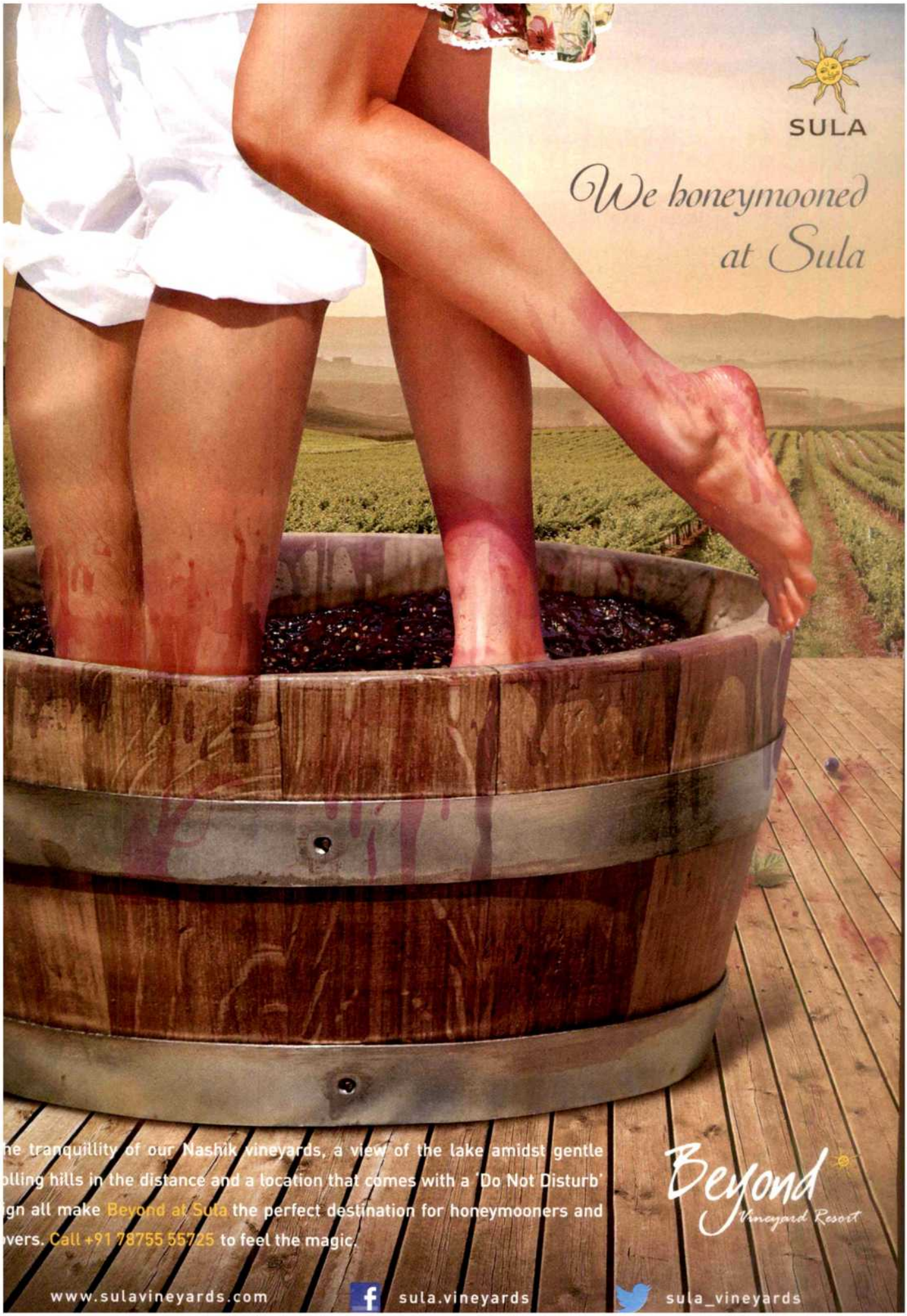
What doesn't Bigger seat trays might be a good idea because the generous portions threaten to spill into your lap. While grown-ups will lap up the five-star meals, kids may not be impressed. Instead, a kiddie-sized menu with more decadent options could make the tiny high fliers happy.

A RESIDENCE FIT FOR A KING

The final touch on airborne opulence comes in the form of a three-room private suite, the first ever in commercial aviation. A royal affair that you won't forget in a hurry, The Residence by Etihad is set to be launched this month. And from what we hear, it's all booked out.
What works A sumptuous cabin with a 32-inch flatscreen TV, an Ottoman, a table laid for two, and a drinks cabinet. Available exclusively on the Etihad Airways A380, the service includes a lavish breakfast in bed made by the inflight chef. And there's your very own flying butler who combines the roles of concierge and maître d'hôtel.
What doesn't The one-way price tag of £12,500. Expectations are high, and will the uber-exclusive service live up to the promise?

BUSINESS CLASS LOUNGE

Happen to be on a stopover flight? Don't despair. The Pearl Business Class lounge is your best bet to shrug off the effects of jetlag. What we liked was the option of jumping into a hot shower and enjoying an invigorating neck and back massage. The spa quotient is rather high and the Six Senses Spa has quite a few treatments worth trying.
What works While all business class lounges have a wide selection of dishes as part of their buffet, what we liked was the mix of hot and cold dishes on offer. The beverage selection was wide as well, and everything was presented quite stylishly.
What doesn't The sofas in the lounge are comfortable but there is no space to actually put your feet up and snooze if you have a long wait between flights. Lying down is clearly out of the question. The prayer rooms also look a tad neglected.


SULA
We honeymooned at Sula
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Friday Dressing
Head to work in an all-new avatar. Men can opt for a crisp shirt and tie with slim jeans and a comfortable overcoat while women flirt with androgyny in a suit worn with a flowy shirt.

POWER

Formal doesn't mean boring. **Tommy Hilfiger** sh

TRIP

what power dressing is all about.

Text and styling: **Saurav Bhanot**; Photographer: **Shekhar Ghosh**;
Location courtesy: **Dusit Devarana, New Delhi**;
Models: **Vasy (Karma Models), Andjela (Toabh Model Management)**;
Make-up: **Punam Ekka**; Hair styling: **Abhishek**

Lunch Break
Sweaters with jeans are the new cool, especially if you plan to sneak out of work for a quick bite with your lady.

Blitzkrieg
ay meeting?
m up ankle-
boots with a
ess, bag and
glasses, and
set to rock
boardroom.

Evening Escapades
Set the mood for the evening as you wind down from the week with a chequered shirt with jean and a formal jacket. Women can alter their work look with ankle-length boots.

GRAHAM SILVERSTONE RS SKELETON SUPERSPRINT

The Silverstone RS Supersprint features high-level performance to become a hybrid of first class watch making and world-beating motorsport. With a 1/8th second mirror graduation scale, you will be able to read the time without parallax error by aligning the central second hand on its own reflection on the circular mirror.

With its 42 mm steel case, the Supersprint is the most energetic and self-confident model of the Silverstone RS collection. With a new ergonomic case which consists of a 42 mm middle, the watch appears with a wider personality thanks to a 44 mm bezel. This double configuration enables a perfect match on every wrist.

The main revolution with the Silverstone RS Supersprint is the presence of a mirror graduation around the dial. The use of the mirror is the professional solution to ensure exact reading.

When the red chrono hand stops, you can read time on the 1/8th seconds scale thanks to the mirror.

The second hand placed on top of its reflection will give an accurate measurement.

THE LIVELIEST PLACES FOR NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS IS THAILAND -SAY GOODBYE TO 2014 AND WELCOME 2015 WITH US

New Year's countdown celebrations in Thailand have always been very popular with locals, but now numerous tourists visit this exotic destination to join the celebrations in the most pleasant of weather. It combines a magnificent display of fireworks, beautiful lighting decorations in malls and streets, cultural events, live concerts, performances featuring local and international DJs and bands and street food stall making it very popular for local crowd as well as International visitors. During the day, tourists can relax at the beach or enjoy water sports activities or Island Hopping and join the festivities on New Year's Eve.

The celebrations to welcome the New Year take place in major cities. Bangkok is one of the liveliest cities in Thailand to celebrate. The most popular places to live it up this year in Thailand are: Central World (Ratchaprasong Area) in Bangkok, Rooftop Bars and Restaurants in Bangkok, Asiatique Riverfront Bangkok, Beaches of Thailand (Pattaya, Hua Hin & Phuket, The Mountains of Chiang Mai, North of Thailand.

Reel, Reads RHYTHM

A look at the very best in entertainment this December.

books

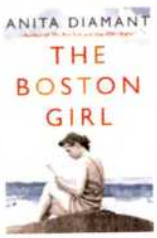
THE STRANGE LIBRARY

In a quest to learn how taxes were collected in the Ottoman Empire, a schoolboy pops into the local library only to be taken prisoner. He is led to an underground room and held there with a 'sheep man' and a girl who talks with her hands. A creepy pre-X'mas treat for Murakami fans.

Author **Haruki Murakami**
Publisher **Knopf Doubleday**
Release Date **December 2**

THE BOSTON GIRL

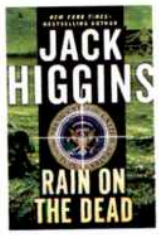
A poignant story of family ties, friendship and feminism in the early 20th century. Addie Baum, born in 1900 to Jewish immigrant parents, embraces multicultural influences as her sceptical parents deal with the foreignness of a strange land.



Author **Anita Diamant**
Publisher **Scribner**
Release Date **December 9**

RAIN ON THE DEAD

The Al-Qaeda is down, but not out. An assassination attempt on a public figure makes black ops specialist Sean Dillon suspect that the militants may have recruited somebody he knows. Somebody dangerous.



Author **Jack Higgins**
Publisher **Putnam Adult**
Release Date **December 30**

movies

Seth Rogen and James Franco in the action-comedy, The Interview

THE INTERVIEW

When Dave Skylark (James Franco) and Aaron Rapoport (Seth Rogen) discover that North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un is a big fan of their TV show, they decide to hit the big time by roping him in for an interview. But even as they pack their bags for the Pyongyang trip, the CIA recruits them for an even more sensational mission: Jong-Un's assassination. The movie is already making headlines, especially with North Korea dubbing the movie as a "wanton act of terror". A must watch, even for those who can't stand Rogen or his brand of comedy.

Directors Evan Goldberg, Seth Rogen **Release Date** December 25

THE HOBBIT: PART III

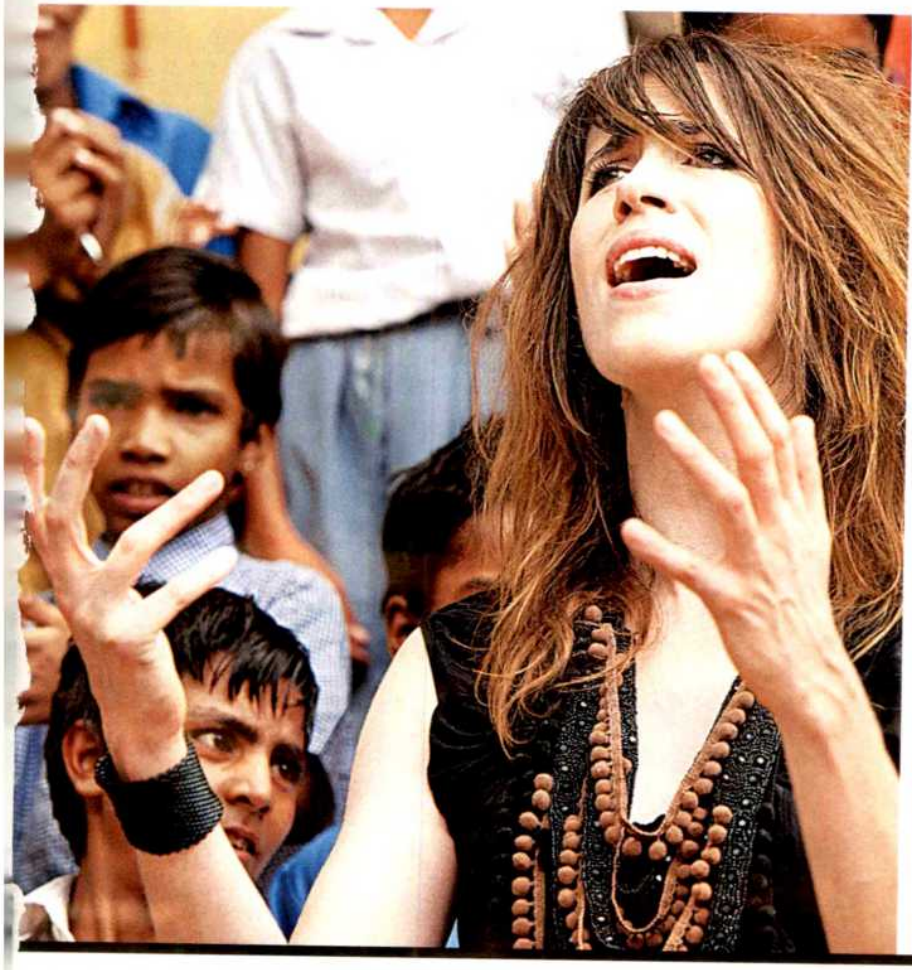
Bilbo Baggins and his Company of Dwarves unwittingly unleash a deadly force onto the world in *The Battle of Five Armies*, making Smaug rain down his wrath upon the inhabitants of Lake-Town. Meanwhile, Sauron returns to Middle-Earth unseen, sending forth legions of Orcs to attack Lonely Mountain.

Director Peter Jackson
Release Date December 17

UNBROKEN

Louis "Louie" Zamperini, a former Oympic track star, finds himself fighting the Japanese in the Second World War. He survives a plane cra only to spend 47 days drifting on a raft and the following two years in Japanese prison camps. A war-survival movie featuring Jack O'Connel and Alex Russell.

Director Angelina Jolie
Release Date December 25



music

THE DEWARISTS - SEASON IV

Get ready for Season Four of The Dewarists, a TV show that has some of the world's most prominent musicians collaborating on the creation of singularly unique music while travelling to breathtaking locales across the world. A winner of the Cannes Lion award, it shows that music knows no boundaries, and is capable of perfect harmony across the genres that be. The musicians featured have been as varied as Indian rockers Indian Ocean, Grammy winner Imogen Heap (in pic) and Afrobeat artistes Sean Kuti & Egypt 80 Orchestra. The new season will explore new ways to appeal to the senses, with each episode seeing multi-genre musicians collaborate with eclectic visual artistes like shadow puppeteers and contemporary dancers.

Channel **MTV Indies**
Time **8 pm, Saturday**

TITLI
Language
Hindi
Release Date
December 25
Starring
Ranvir Shorey

TEVAR
Release Date
January 9
Language
Hindi
Cast
Arjun Kapoor

AI
Language
Tamil
Release Date
January 14
Starring
Vikram

BOLLYWOOD, ETC

Language
Hindi
Director
Rajkumar Hirani
Release Date
December 19

P.K.

The questions that flummox the most are the ones that everybody knows, but do not ask. If the grapevine is to be believed, P.K. has Aamir Khan playing an alien who comes to Earth in a quest to save his own planet. During his search, he happens upon a prostitute, played by Anushka Sharma, and enlists her in a mission to change the popular perception of God. Also starring Sanjay Dutt, Boman Irani and (probably) a very controversial cassette player.

HUBLOT BOWLS US OVER

IT'S OFFICIAL, THE GENTLEMAN'S GAME AND HIS WATCH HAVE JOINED HANDS TO TAKE the world by storm. The Classic Fusion Chrono Aerofusion Cricket watch, released to mark Hublot's appointment as the Official Timekeeper of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015, is a celebration of the sport in every sense of the term. The four distinctive references to cricket you notice at first glance are a miniature replication of stumps at 12 o'clock; cricket bat-shaped hands; a caseback bearing the exclusive symbol of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015; and a red calfskin leather strap with triple saddle stitching in the manner of a leather ball. What's more, at the heart of the watch is a sturdy openworked HUB1155 self-winding chrono movement which ensures that you always stay ahead of the game. If this doesn't bowl you over, we don't know what will.

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